



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

4

INIO ASANO

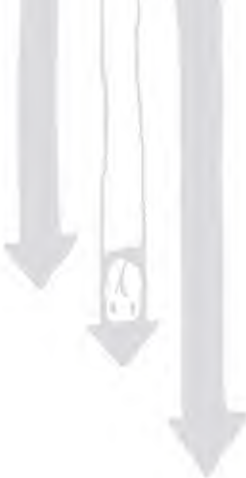
PARENT ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

4

Story and Art by INIO ASANO





GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Part Seven

CONTENTS

STORY THUS FAR...

Nothing to speak of.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



PUNPUN ONODERA
Punpun of the Onoderas.
A senior in high school.



YUICHI ONODERA
Punpun's uncle.



MIDORI ONODERA
Yuichi's wife.



YUKINOSHIN MIMURA
A legendary giant reborn after 300 years.

☆ ☆ Chapter 68	5	★
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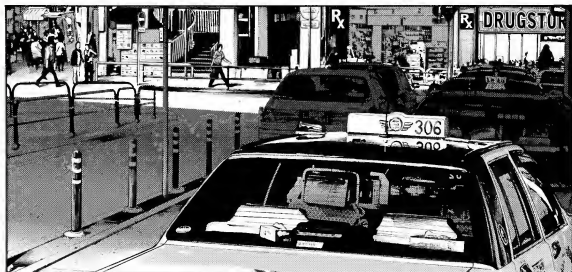
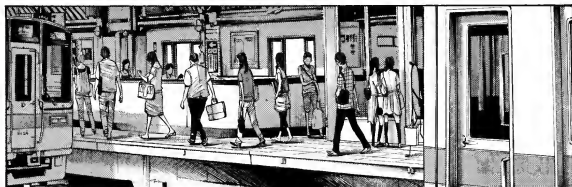
☆

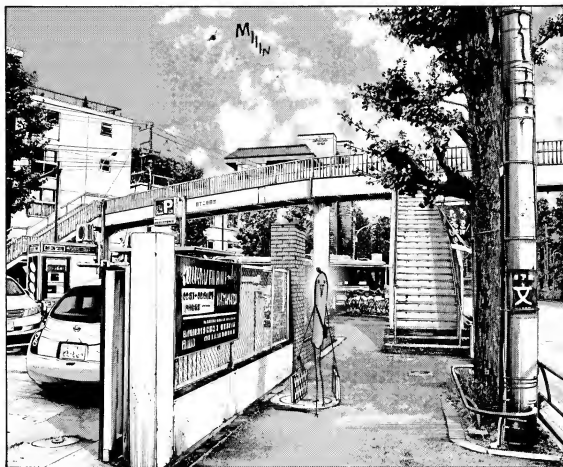
Chapter

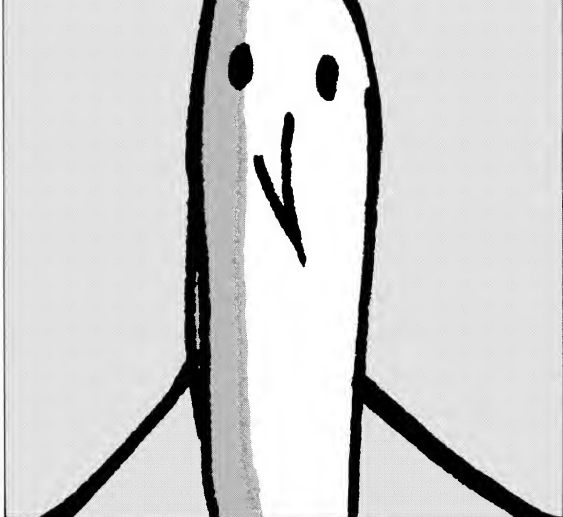
68



☆







The chorus of elementary school kids excited by summer vacation mingled with the sound of the cicadas.

It was sunny all over the country that day, and in Punpun's town it was an extremely hot 99°F. It was the highest temperature of the summer.



In
short, he
was very
unhappy
with **right**
now.

That's
right.

Punpun disliked
summer. And
winter was cold,
so he didn't like
it either.



...but all he
was concerned
about was the
weather and
the seasons.

There were lots
of other things
he should have
been thinking
about...





HE
DOESN'T
SHOW IT,
BUT HE'S
SUFFERING.

PUNPUN
SEEMS
DOWN...



REALLY?



PUNPUN.

I
DON'T
THINK
SO.



...this letter didn't have a stamp or a return address.

But **unlike** usual...

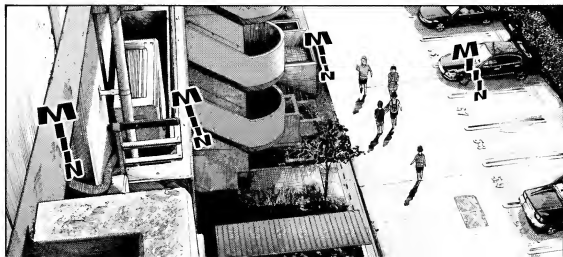


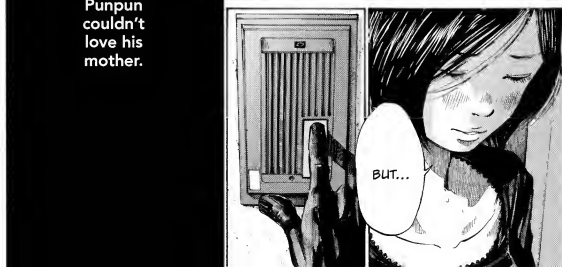
...that Punpun got from his dad every month.

It was the usual pointless letter...



Even...









IT'S
MIDORI,
NOT
AKANE.

UM, MR.
PUNYAMA
...



WELL, I'M
IMPRESSED,
YUICHI...



AND
...

...WE
JUST
TOLD YOU
WE GOT
MARRIED.

YOUR
GIRLFRIEND
AKANE IS
A REAL
LOOKER.



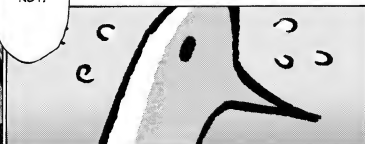
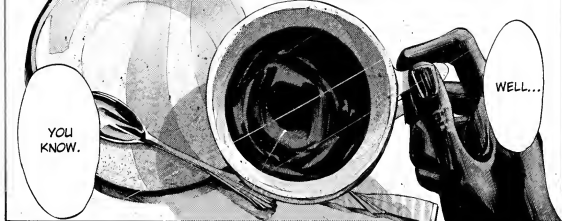
OF
COURSE
YOU
TOLD
ME!

SORRY, I'VE
GOTTEN SO
FORGETFUL.

OH,
OH...!

...WOW!







LIKE I
NEED TO
ASK! YOU'RE
SUCH A
GO-GETTER,
PUNPUN.

WHY, WHEN I
WAS YOUR AGE,
I WAS GOING
AT IT SO MUCH
WITH AN OLDER
WOMAN THAT
MY DICK NEVER
HAD A CHANCE
TO DRY.



ARE YOU
GETTING
ANY?

...HOW'S
HIGH
SCHOOL?



OH YEAH.
I QUIT
THE NIGHT
WATCHMAN
JOB.

NOW I'M
WORKING
FOR A
FRIEND IN
SOCIAL
SERVICES.

UH,
UM...

MR.
PUNYAMA,
ARE YOU
STILL
WORKING
IN FUKU-
SHIMA?



YOU
SHOULD COME
VISIT, AKANE.
FUKUSHIMA IS
A REALLY NICE
PLACE.

THE STARS
ARE SO
BEAUTIFUL
OUT THERE.

YOU
KNOW, I'M
JUST AN
OLD MAN
FROM THE
COUNTRY
NOW...

Punpun
didn't
like this
at all.



LM...

...about
adults and
their own
twisted
problems.

Punpun
wanted
to be
open-
minded...

...wasn't
that big
of a deal.

His father
neglecting
him for
years...



EXCUSE
ME...

COULD
WE GET
SOME
MORE
COFFEE
HERE,
WAITER?

...that Punpun kept observing his dad in the hopes of figuring out **why**.

But the poisonous sense of wrongness was so painful...

He was the same funny, kind dad he'd always been.

Nothing had changed much.

His dad's appearance, his voice, his demeanor...



Punpun figured out what had changed the most.

"I see..."

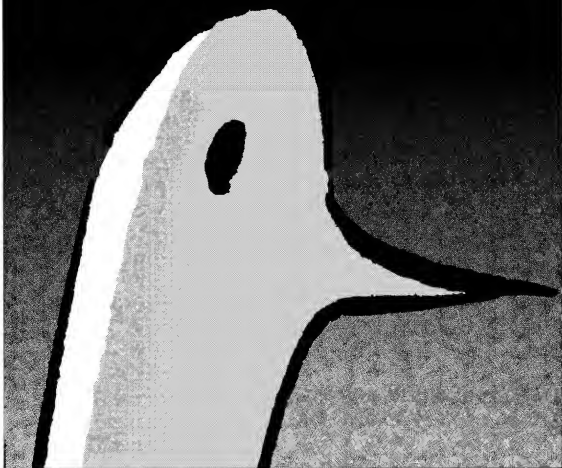


I'LL PUT THE KETTLE ON.

AND BY THE WAY, IT'S MIDORI.

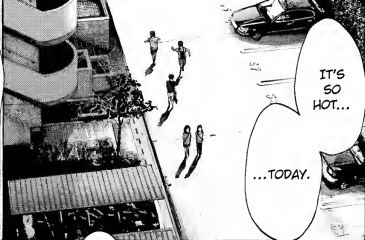
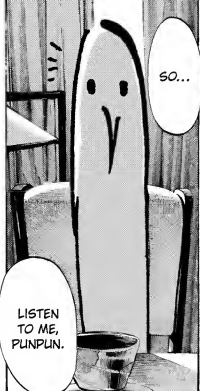
GEEZ, I MISTOOK THIS FOR A COFFEE SHOP...

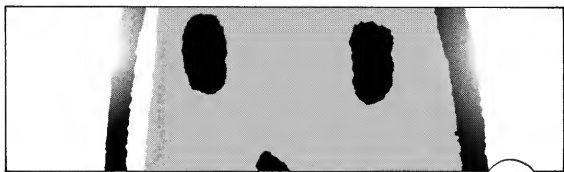
I'M SORRY, AKANE, COULD I HAVE ANOTHER CLIP?

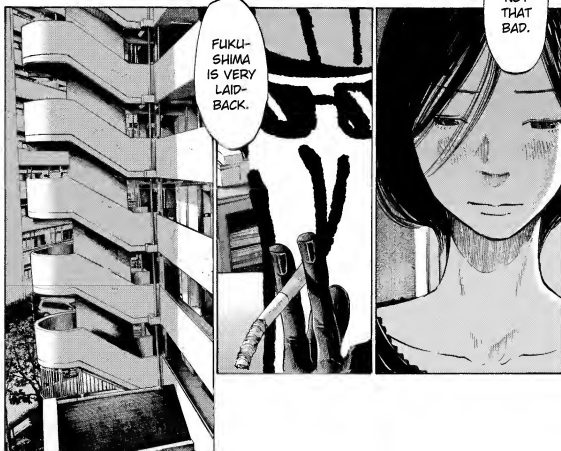


It was
himself.











He
wanted
a new
beginning...

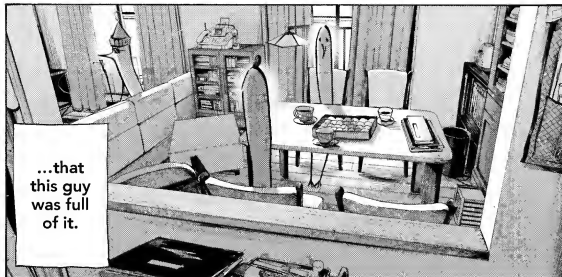
...wasn't
sure what
the person
sitting in
front of him
was saying.

Punpun...

But what
did he
even
mean by
that?



Punpun
thought
...



...that
this guy
was full
of it.

"I..."



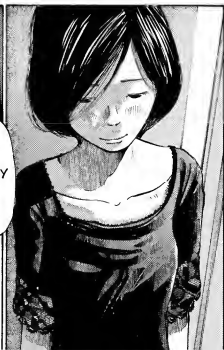
"I'm
going to
live on my
own."



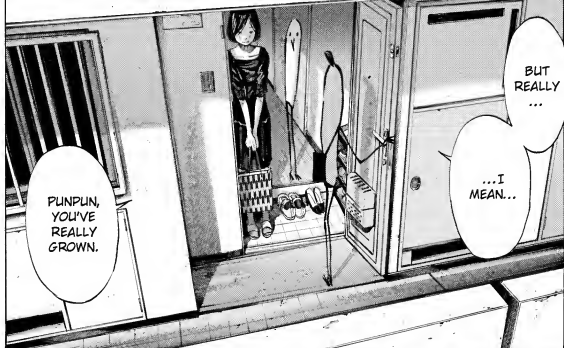
I
UNDER-
STAND.

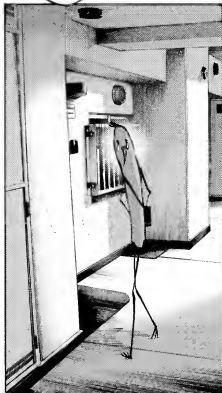
...
RIGHT.

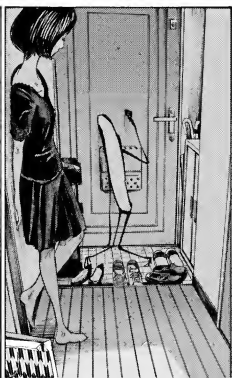
OKAY
...

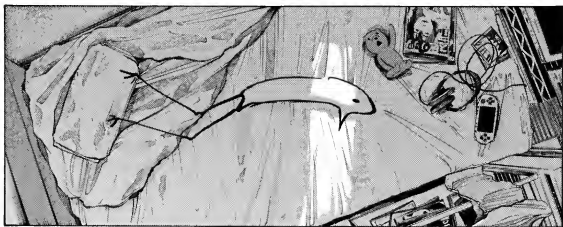














...TAKE
A LITTLE
WALK.

LET'S...



...EVEN
I GET
SENTI-
MENTAL.

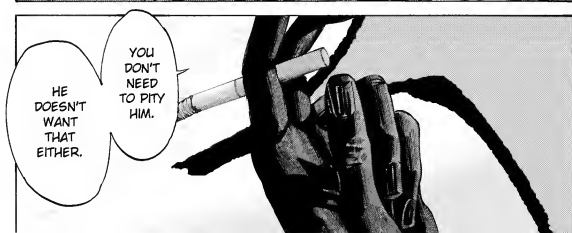
ON
DAYS
LIKE
THIS...



...SINCE
WE
WALKED,
JUST THE
TWO OF
US?

SIGH
...

HOW
LONG
HAS IT
BEEN...

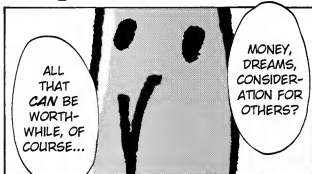




YOU
REAP
WHAT
YOU
SOW.

MOST
THINGS THAT
HAPPEN IN
LIFE ARE OF
OUR OWN
MAKING.

RIGHT?

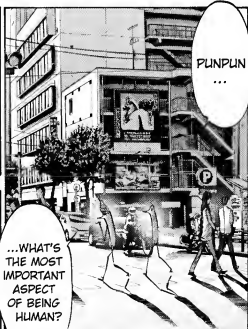


ALL
THAT
CAN BE
WORTH-
WHILE, OF
COURSE...

MONEY,
DREAMS,
CONSIDER-
ATION FOR
OTHERS?



BUT
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THING IS
RESOLVE.



PUNPUN
...

...WHAT'S
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
ASPECT
OF BEING
HUMAN?



I WON'T SAY A THING ABOUT YOUR DECISION.

WHETHER YOU BECOME A SHUT-IN OR A MURDERER, IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.

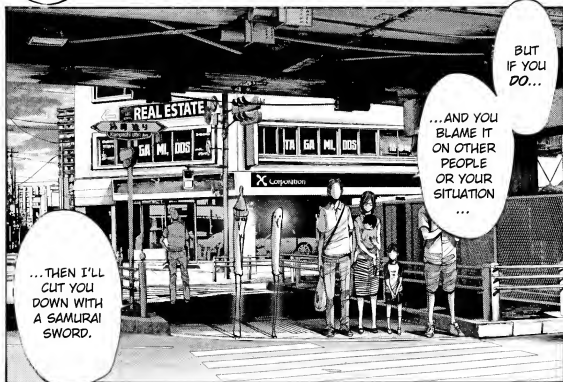


WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO LIVE ALONE...

...I WAS HONESTLY THRILLED.



REALLY, MY DICK GOT ALL TWISTED UP.



BUT IF YOU DO...

...AND YOU BLAME IT ON OTHER PEOPLE OR YOUR SITUATION ...

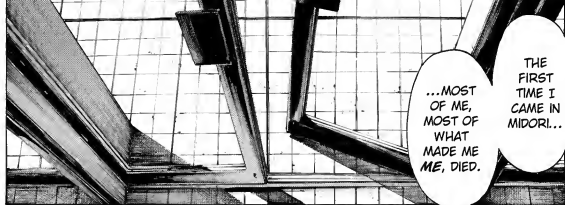
...THEN I'LL CUT YOU DOWN WITH A SAMURAI SWORD.



BUT DON'T FORGET, BOY— WITH FREEDOM COMES RESPONSIBILITY.

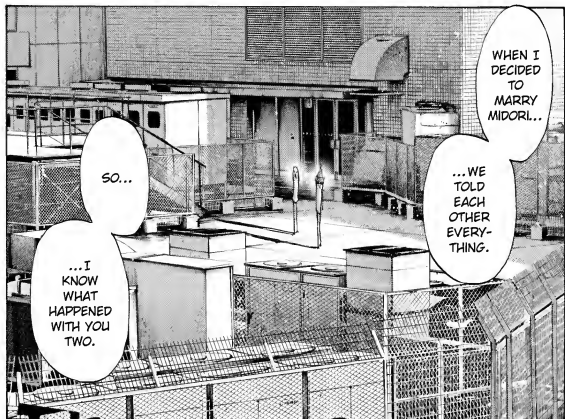
LIFE'S SURPRISINGLY FULL OF FREEDOM.

LISTEN CLOSELY, YOU LITTLE SHIT...



...MOST
OF ME,
MOST OF
WHAT
MADE ME
ME, DIED.

THE
FIRST
TIME I
CAME IN
MIDORI...



SO...

...I
KNOW
WHAT
HAPPENED
WITH YOU
TWO.

WHEN I
DECIDED
TO
MARRY
MIDORI...

...WE
TOLD
EACH
OTHER
EVERY-
THING.

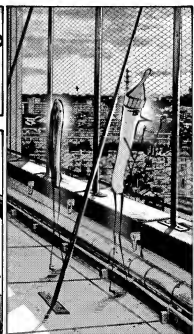


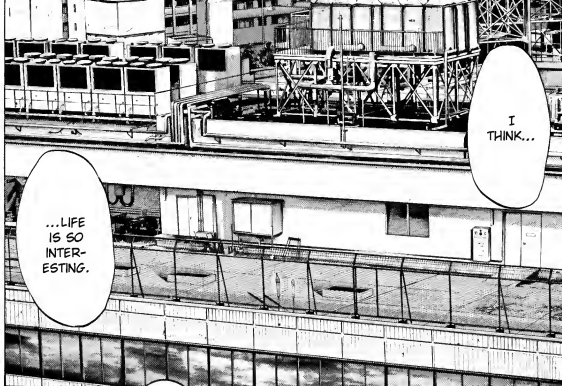
I CAN
EVEN SAY
THAT I
LOVE YOU.

BUT I
WASN'T
ANGRY.



PUNPUN
...





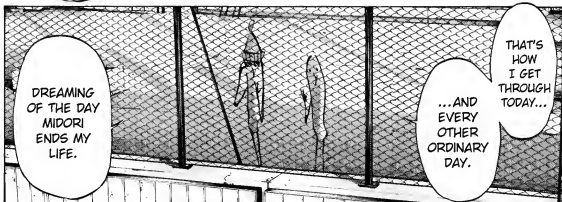
I
THINK...

...LIFE
IS SO
INTER-
ESTING.



EVEN A
WORTHLESS
PIECE OF
GARBAGE
LIKE ME CAN
SOMETIMES
FEEL LIKE
THAT.

THERE
ISN'T A
SECOND
WASTED
IN BEING
ALIVE.



DREAMING
OF THE DAY
MIDORI
ENDS MY
LIFE.

THAT'S
HOW
I GET
THROUGH
TODAY...
...AND
EVERY
OTHER
ORDINARY
DAY.

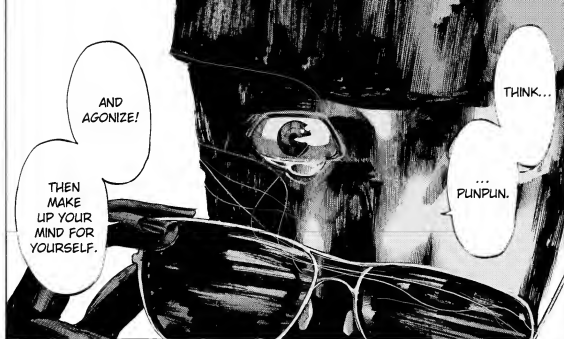


...WHERE
ARE YOU
PLANNING
TO DIE?

PUNPUN...

AND
WHEN IT
HAPPENS,
WILL YOUR
LIFE HAVE
BEEN
WORTH IT?





AND
AGONIZE!

THEN
MAKE
UP YOUR
MIND FOR
YOURSELF.

THINK...

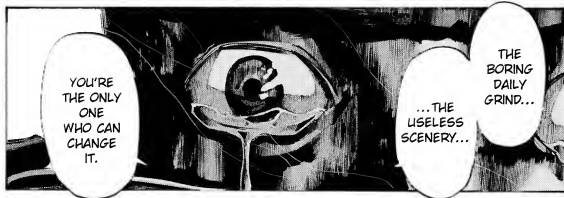
...
PUNPLIN.



...YOU
CAN JUST
ABOUT
HANG ON
TO WHO
YOU ARE.

...AS
LONG
AS YOU
STRIVE
TO
UNDER-
STAND...

EVEN IF
YOU DON'T
UNDER-
STAND...



YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE
WHO CAN
CHANGE
IT.

...THE
USELESS
SCENERY...

THE
BORING
DAILY
GRIND...

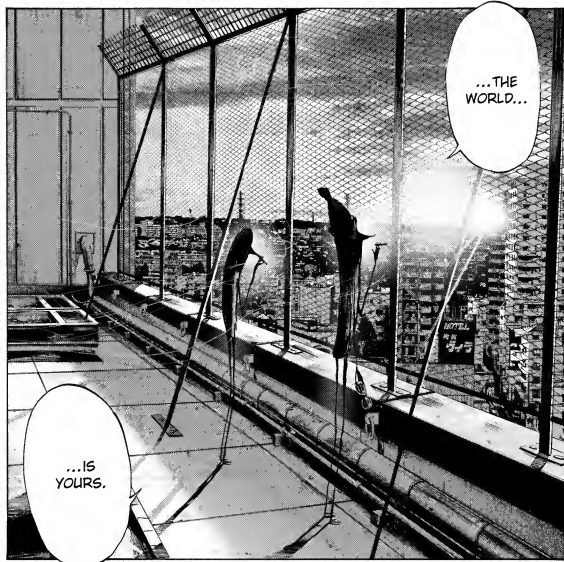


...AS
LONG
AS YOU
REMAIN
YOU...

SO,
PUNPLIN
...

...and
melted
into the
sunset.

The
cigarette
smoke
dispersed
listlessly...



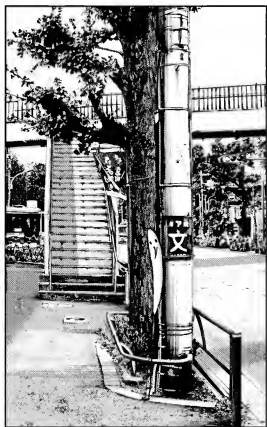
...IS
YOURS.

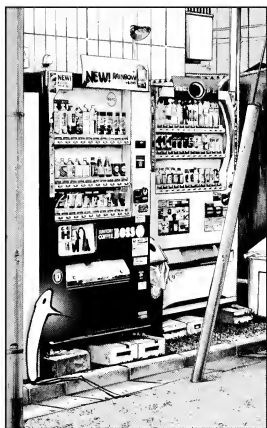
...THE
WORLD...

...breathed
the smoke
in deeply.

...
Punpun
...

As if to
confirm
that he
could
never go
back...







The
sound
of the
second
hand
ticking
deep in
his ear.



The alarm
clock that
would
go off at
7:10.



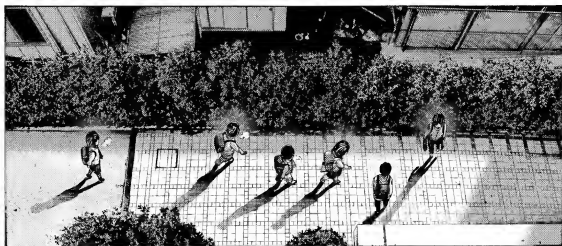
The
familiar
news.



A
cardigan
and a
striped
scarf.



The
smell of
morning.

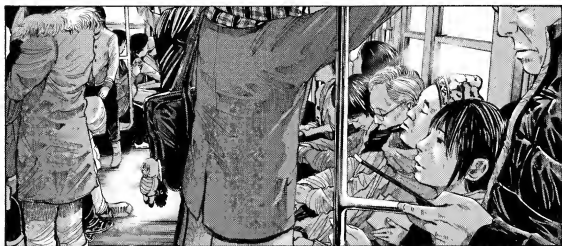


A group
of children
going to
school,
their breath
white
plumes.



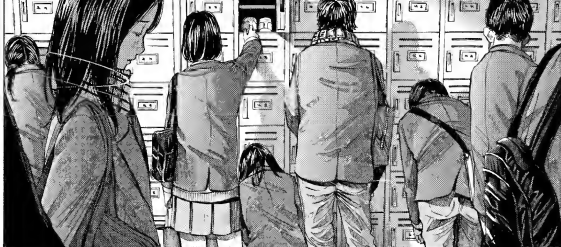
The
station
platform,
a mixture
of yawns
and sighs.

The
7:45
local
train.



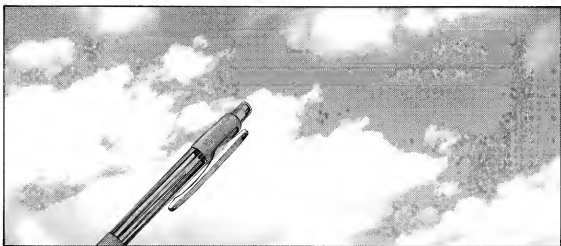
J-pop
leaking from
headphones.

Conversations
with no
substance.



Footsteps
running up
the stairs.

The
hectic
sound
of
locker
doors.



The
winter
sky.

The
scratch of
pencil on
paper.



The
familiar
classroom.



Someone's
lip balm
falling off
a desk
and rolling
across the
floor.



BUT...

...THIS
IS JUST
GROUND-
WORK
FOR MY
MAGNIFICENT
PLAN.

INDEED,
AS SOMEONE
WHO PICKED A
COLLEGE THAT
WOULD LET ME IN
ON THE MERIT OF
A HIGH SCHOOL
RECOMMENDATION,
I MAY SEEM
SIMPLE TO
YOU...

A comic
book, in
tatters
from
being
shared
around.



SHUT UP,
MIMURA!

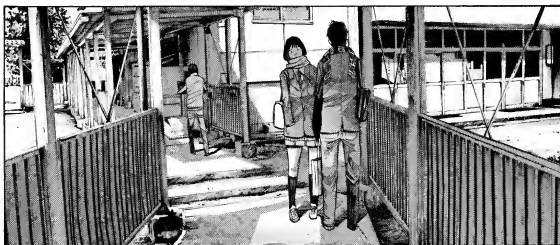
I'M
GOING TO
BUILD A
PYRAMID
IN
SHIBUYA
...

PYUN!

An
answer
sheet,
balled
up and
thrown in
the trash.



The
school
roof and
coffee-
flavored
milk in a
carton.



The
after-
school
silence.



Christmas
songs
over the
store loud-
speakers.

The
sale bin
at the
video
store.



The
fifty-cent
combat
game
at the
arcade.



People,
people,
people...

The hustle
and bustle
of town in
December.



...just
rushing
by.



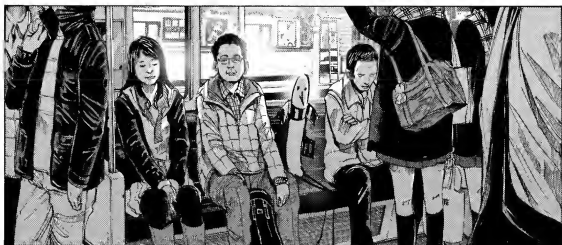
...from
behind.

The sound
of someone
calling his
name...





Loneliness.



Freedom.



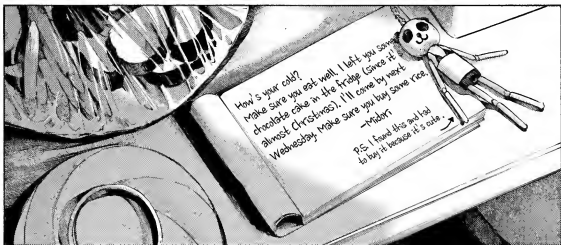
The
manga
section
of the
convenience
store.



Canned
coffee with
just a little
sugar.



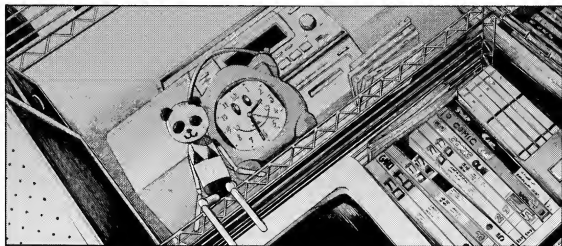
A
very
dark
room.



A
cold
dinner.



The
familiar
news.



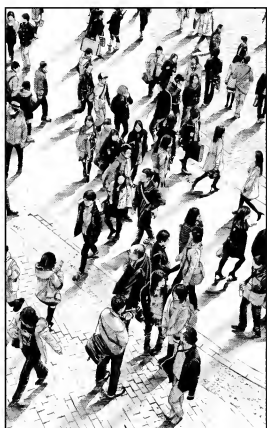
The
alarm
clock
set to
7:10.



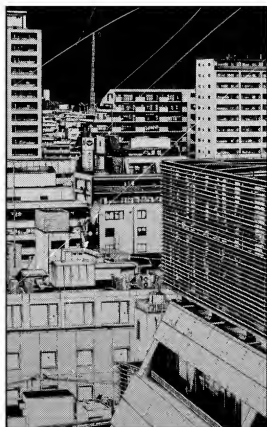
Punpun
was...

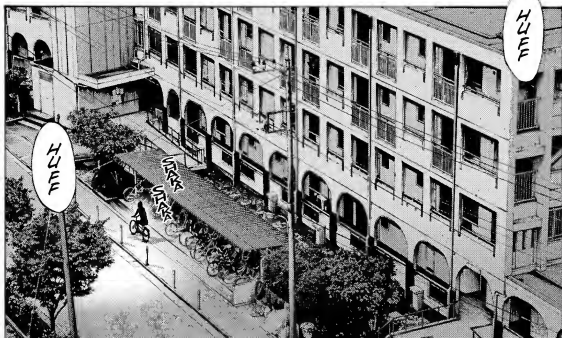


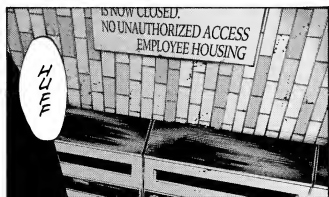
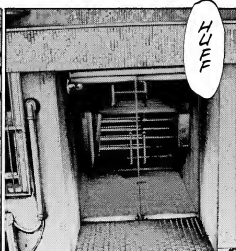
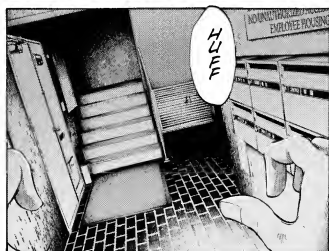
...doing
well
today.



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN
Part Seven
INIO ASANO



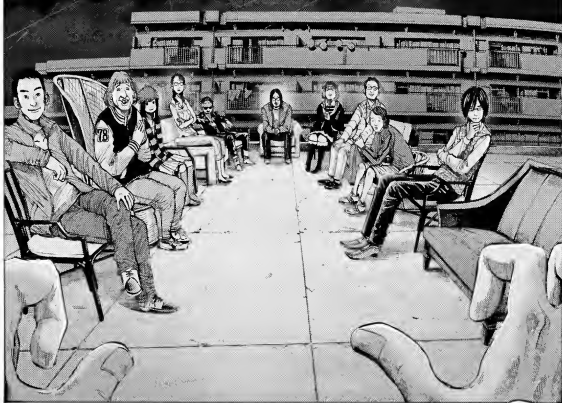






I
THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
ARRIVE
AROUND
NOW.

GOOD
VIBRATIONS.



BUT...

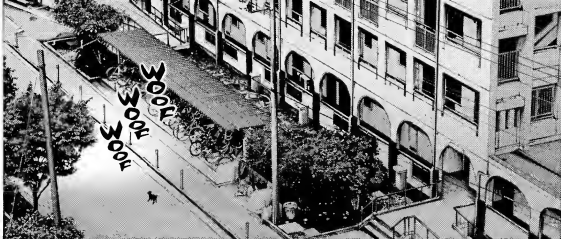
...I
MIGHT
JUST
LOVE
YOU
DESPITE
THAT.

HOW
MELLOW
ARE YOU
TO BE 15
MINUTES
LATE?











WAIT FOR
MY ANNUAL
SUMMER
BARBECUE.

DID
YOU KNOW
THAT ALL
GIRLS CAN
DO A
SPECIAL
KIND OF
MAGIC?

MY
NAME IS
WHITE PIG,
AND I'M
A SALES
CLERK.



I WOULD
LOVE TO
DISCUSS
OOPARTS AND
CRYPTOID
MEGA-
ORGANISMS
WITH YOU.

I
WORK AS
A WEB
DESIGNER
AND ALSO
PUBLISH A
COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER.

I'M
CALLED
"IT'S
AWKWARD
WHEN YOU
ONLY
HAVE ONE
BATTERY
LEFT."



CONTRARY
TO
APPEAR-
ANCES, I'M
PRETTY
GOOD AT
ANYTHING
SPORTY.

I'VE
BEEN
TO THE
NATIONAL
SWIMMING
CHAMPION-
SHIPS.

I'M
INFINITE
LOVE.

I'M 26
YEARS
OLD AND
I WORK
PART-
TIME.



MY VOICE
MAY BE
ANNOYINGLY
ANIME, BUT
IT'S JUST
HOW I SPEAK
NATURALLY.
SORRY ABOUT
THAT.

I'M
GOING TO
SCHOOL TO
BECOME
A VOICE-
OVER
ACTRESS.

I'M
BUTT
HAM-
BURGER.



POTTERY
IS MY
HOBBY. I
HAVE TWO
CHILDREN.

I'M SO
HAPPY TO
BECOME
FRIENDS WITH
SOMEONE AS
YOUNG AS
YOU.

I AM
GUARDIAN
ANGEL
GIBOBOGIGI.

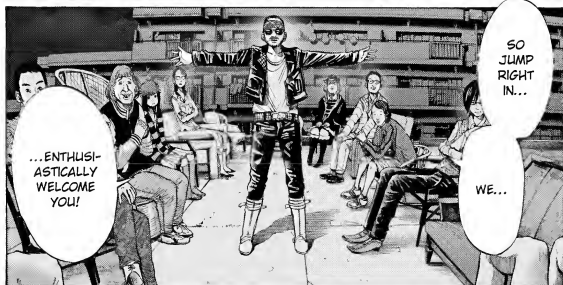


EVERYONE
HERE IS
REALLY
NICE...

...SO
COME
JOIN US,
BABY.

I USED TO
BE IN A GANG
AND GOT INTO
LOADS OF
TROUBLE,
BUT I'M A
DELIVERYMAN
NOW AND I
DRIVE SUPER
CAREFULLY.

I'M
CONTRARY
TO...



...THE
PEGASUS
ENSEMBLE.

WEL-
COME
TO...



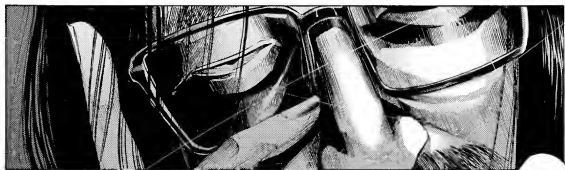


UM...

I-
I'M...

I'M
STARTING
COLLEGE IN
THE SPRING,
STUDYING TO
BECOME AN
ACCOUNTANT.

...YUMI
NUMATA.



WHAT'S
THE POINT
OF LIVING IN
A USELESS
WORLD LIKE
THIS?

BUT...

...AND I'VE
JUST FELT
REALLY
UNSETTLED.

I
BROKE
UP WITH
MY BOY-
FRIEND
THIS WINTER
...



MAYBE
THE
WORLD
ISN'T
USELESS
...

...MAYBE
IT'S ME.

...ONE
NIGHT I
REALIZED I
WAS SUR-
ROUNDED
BY A WHITE
LIGHT...

...AND
I HAD A
REVELA-
TION.



I
THOUGHT,
"MAYBE
THIS ISN'T
A COINCID-
ENCE"...

...AND
"SOMEONE
LIKE THIS
COULD BE
THE GOD TO
GUIDE ME."

THE
NEXT DAY,
PEGASUS
SPOKE TO
ME ON THE
STREET.

HIS
AURA, HIS
PRESENCE
...



WE
WILL
NOW...

...
PERFORM
A SONG
FOR YOU.

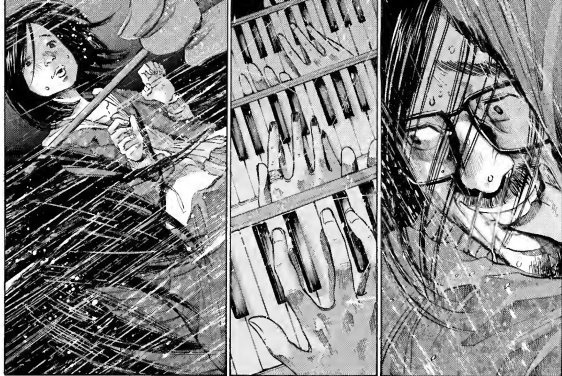
OKAY,
YUMI...

ACTUALLY,
AS OF
TODAY,
YOU ARE
PRINCESS
PUSSY.

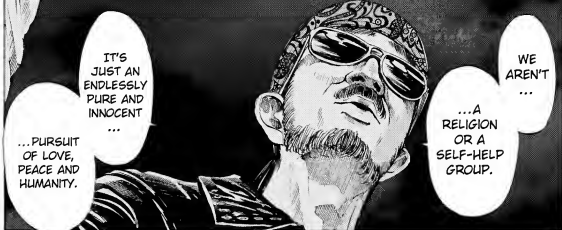
STOP
IT.

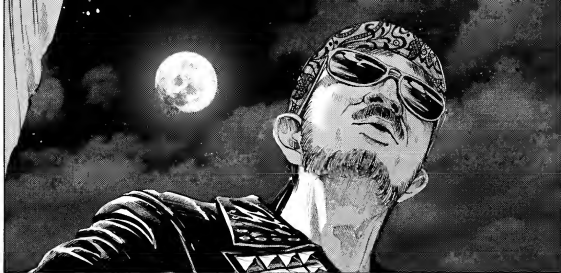
I'M NOT
STUPID
ENOUGH
TO WANT
SOMEONE
CALLING ME
A GOD.





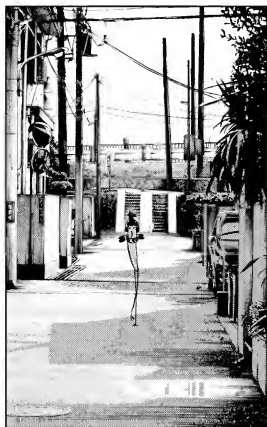


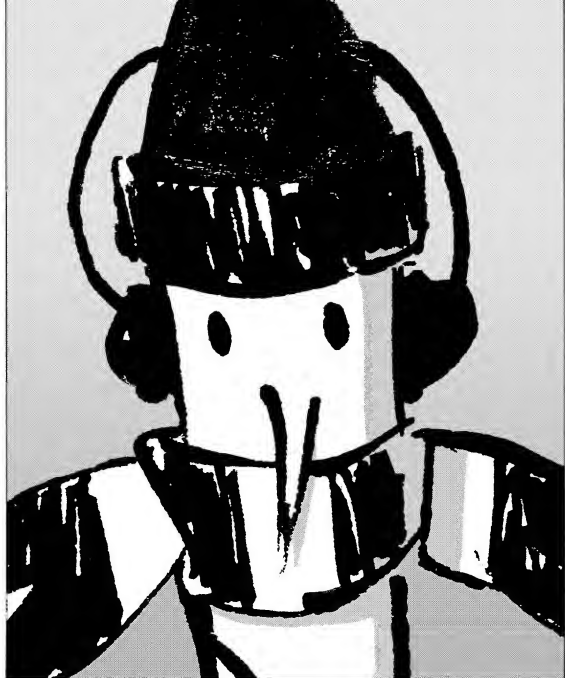








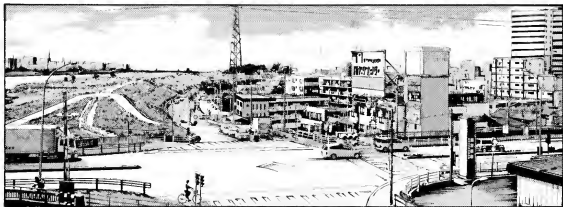




Punpun
was...

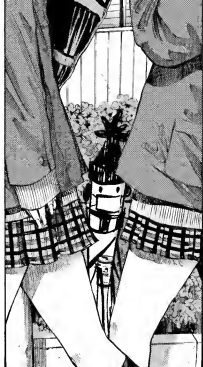


...really
unhappy
about going
to work.



He just felt
overwhelmingly
sluggish.

There
was no
particular
reason
why.



If someone pressed him for a reason, as long as they were okay with frivolous answers, he could come up with ten, a hundred, a million responses like "I'm feeling exploited" or "my allergies are acting up."



... called people who said things like that "trash."

But he was pretty sure that society...



I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU
SINCE
GRADUA-
TION.

HOW'VE
YOU BEEN?
YOU LOOK
A LITTLE
PALE.
ARE YOU
OKAY?

YOU
JIKUJION!

WHOOOOA,
ONOTTI!

YOU
ASSHOLE,
YOU SON
OF A
BITCH!



WHY
DON'T YOU
FORGO THE
"NO MASTUR-
BATION" RULE
AND TURN
OFF ENLIGHT-
ENMENT FOR
A NIGHT?

WELL,
THAT'S
THE IDEAL
I STRIVE
FOR
EVERY
DAY.

EVER
SINCE I
GOT INTO
COLLEGE,
MY DICK
HASN'T HAD
A CHANCE
TO DRY
OFF...

4F
HUH?
YOU'RE
TAKING
WALKS
EVERY
DAY?

SINCE YOU
OWE ME FOR
GETTING YOU THIS
PART-TIME JOB,
LET'S FIND SOME
GIRLS AND MAKE
THEM SCREAM.

YOU'RE
LIKE A
GRANDPA,
MAN.

WHAT IF
SOMEONE IS
JUMPING UP
AND DOWN
REPEATEDLY
IN FRONT
OF ME. HOW
MANY TIMES
DO I COUNT
THAT?

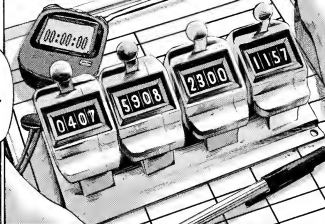
OH...

...
EXCUSE
ME.

THANKS
FOR YOUR
HELP.

OKAY,
EVERY-
ONE TO
YOUR STA-
TIONS.

THAT'S
IT. ANY
QUES-
TIONS?



UM, SO
KEEP TRACK
OF THE
PASSERSBY
AND MAKE
SURE YOU
GET A
CORRECT
COUNT OF
THEM.



...that
day.

Lots of
people
passed
by...

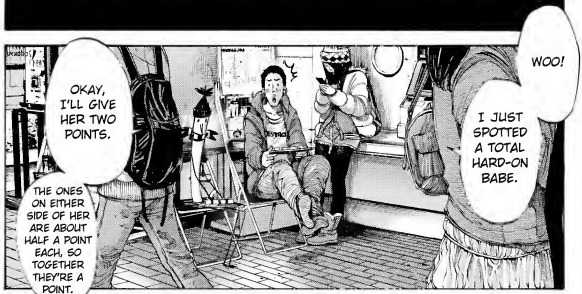


...or some depressed by irrevocable guilt.

...some with serious illnesses...

...some with major problems at home...

Among the pedestrians passing by were bound to be...



For now, best to play the fool.

No, no, don't think anymore.

...there Punpun was, feeling unsettled for no reason.

And yet...

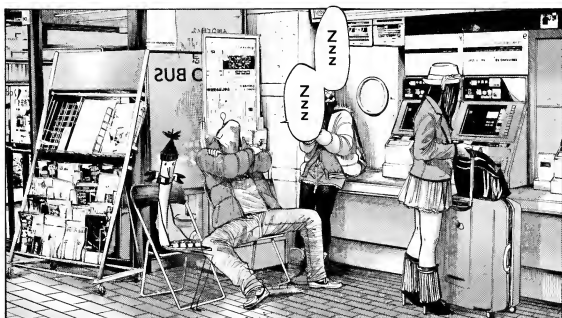


Well, of course not. They were all confidently moving forward.

No one would help him. No one would meet his gaze.

Who was he looking for?

For some reason, Punpun was following them as they went back and forth, as if he was clinging to something.



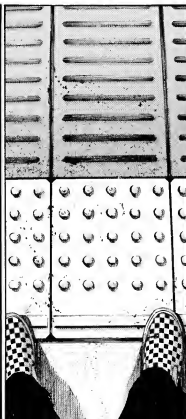
...Punpun was still hypersensitive to the north wind.

Even though a breath of spring was starting to seep into the breeze...



That
about
summed
him up.

But
Punpun
couldn't
even
cross
the
white
line.



That's
what he
thought.

All it
would
take
was a
step or
two...



Re-
petitive
tasks
seemed
to
agree
with
him.

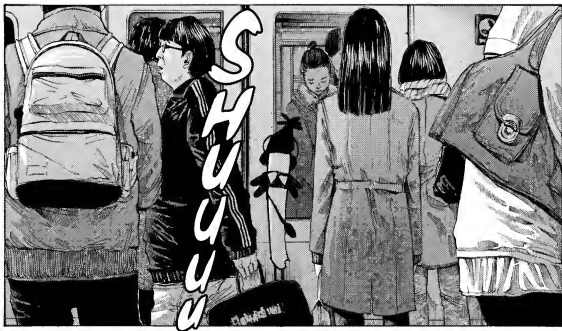
But
there
was one
thing
Punpun
could
take
away
from
the day.



That's
what
Punpun
thought.

He might
be able to
go a little
harder
tomorrow.

He felt
a little
better
now.

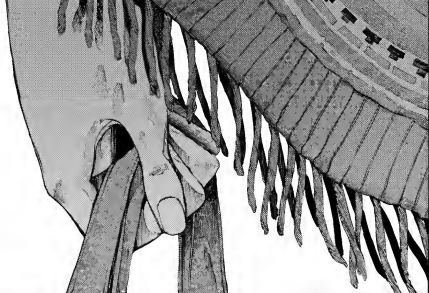


...was a
secret
from
everyone.

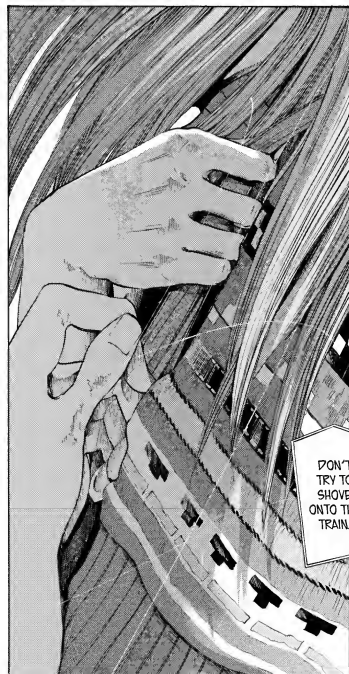
...for the
last three
days...

The fact that
Punpun had
thought he
could maybe
go harder
tomorrow...



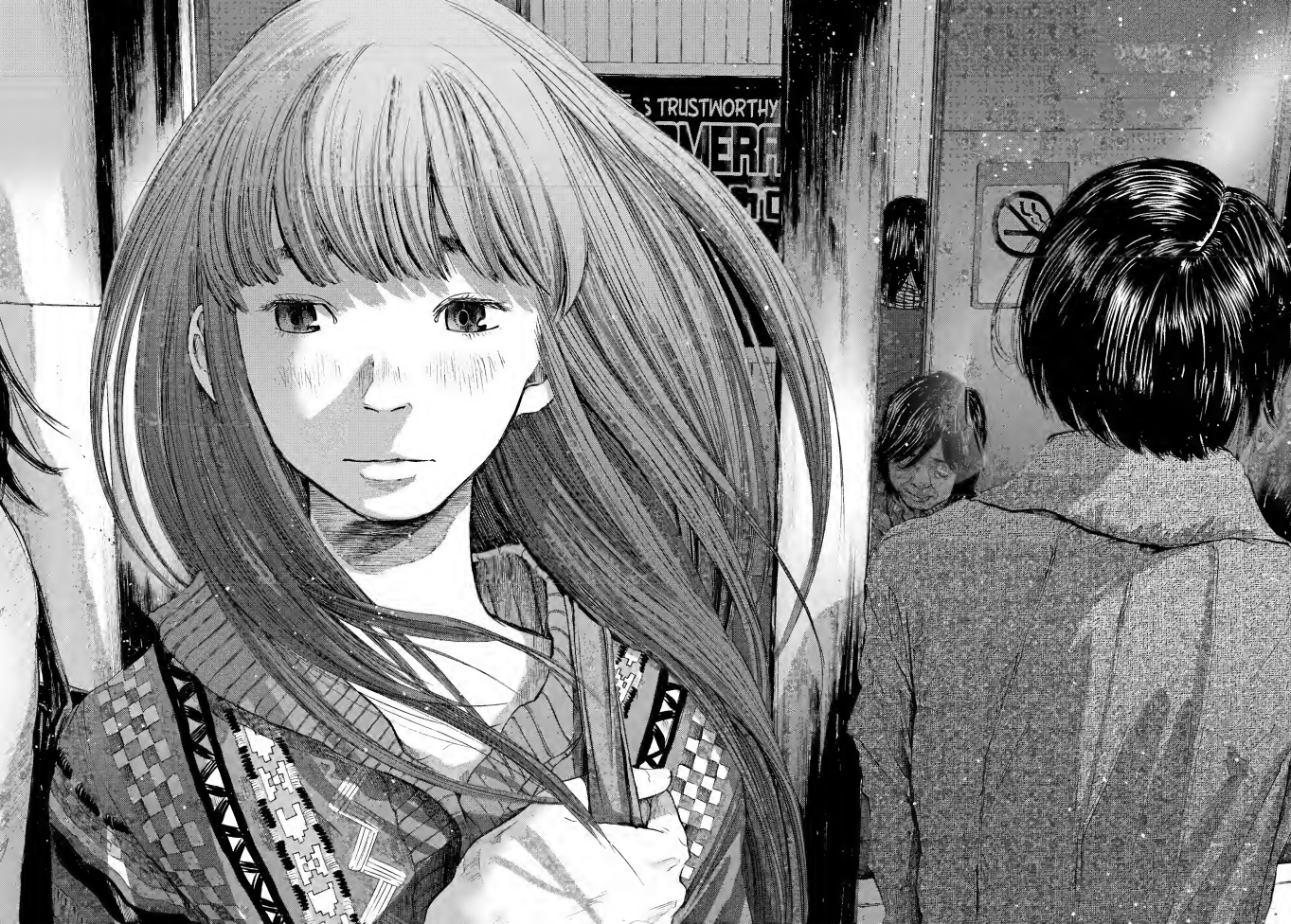
A close-up of a hand holding a tassel that hangs from a circular, ribbed object, possibly a hat or a piece of furniture.

THE
DOORS
ARE
CLOSING.

A large panel showing a hand holding a tassel, with a view of a building through the strands of the tassel.

DON'T
TRY TO
SHOVE
ONTO THE
TRAIN.



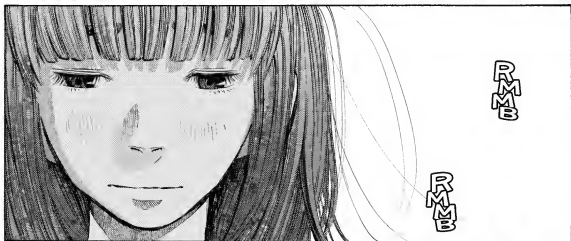
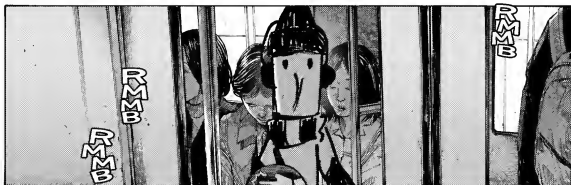
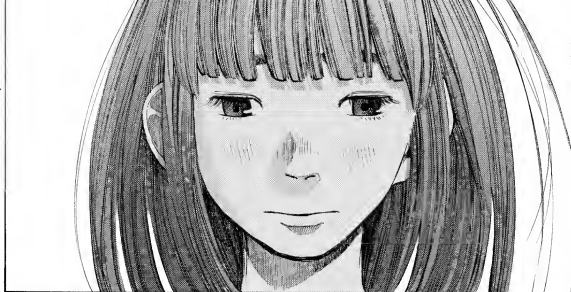




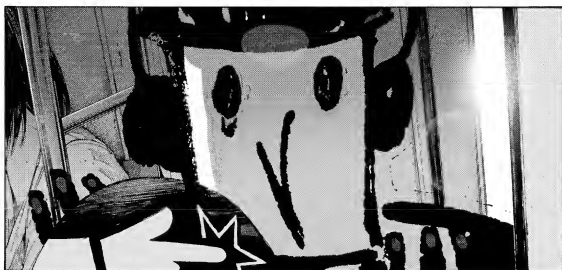
**It's
Aiko.**

☆

★ Chapter 73 ☆



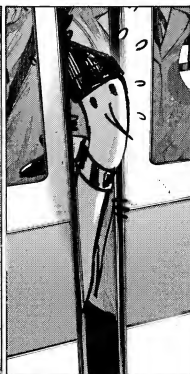
It's
Aiko!!

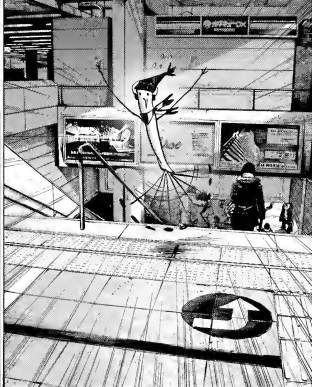
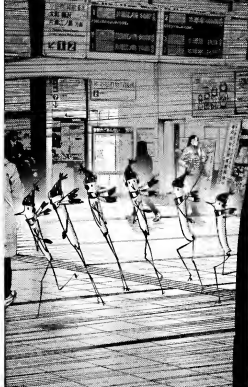


It's It's It's
Aiko! Aiko! Aiko!



It's
Aiko.





Aiko.



Aiko?





Aiko!



Aiko!

Aiko!







TAXES, USE A SAFE AND SIMPLE DIRECT TRANSFER.
SAVINGS AND TAX ASSOCIATION

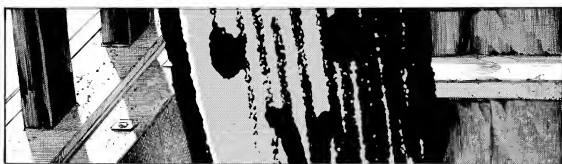
Shopping

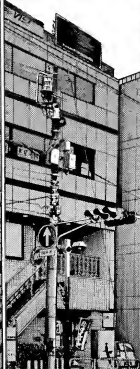
KAT WELLNESS
15

SH

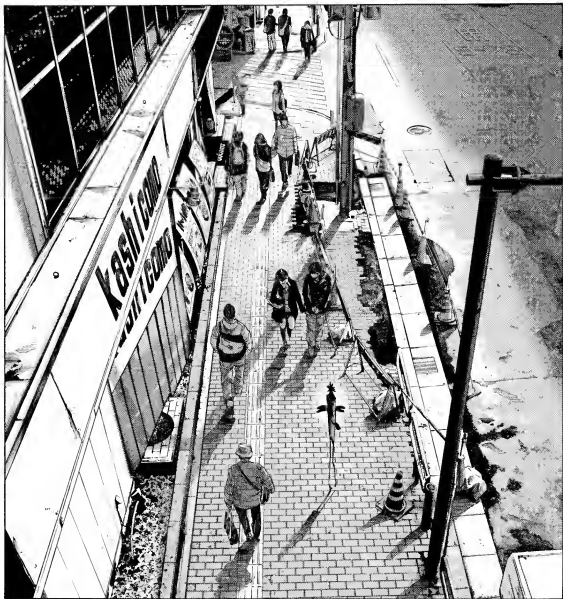
YOUNG & RUBICAM
SP
KAWAII

5557





He
couldn't...



...find
Aiko.



...one
thing
was now
clear to
him.

But...

Aiko
wasn't just a
memory at
the bottom
of his mind.

Pretty
obvious.

...just
like he
had.

...she
had spent
her time
existing
some-
where...

For the
past
several
years...





Aiko...



...and live
somewhere
in town.

(unlike
someone
else
Punpun
knew)

...must be a
proper grown-
up now...



...in the
last few
years?

What
had he
done...

FOR RENT: STUDIO APARTMENT 2ND FLOOR CORNER ROOM (# 201)

SHISHIDO HEIGHTS

RENT/MONTH 1 MONTH SECURITY DEPOSIT
\$225 UTILITIES \$10

6 MINUTES FROM TRAIN STATION

- SURFACE AREA / 180FT²
- BUILDING / 2 STORY WOODEN
- YEAR BUILT / 1990
- LEASE PERIOD / 2 YEARS
- INSURANCE / NECESSARY \$100 / 2 YEARS

SHISHIDO REAL ESTATE TEL: 55-55-55 FAX: 55-55-55

...so what
was he so
afraid of?

Nothing
would
happen
if he just
waited
around...

He
didn't
have
anything
to lose.



COME IN
AND HAVE
A SEAT
ANYWHERE
YOU LIKE.

OH...

...HELLO
THERE.



HMMM.
WELL,
I CAN
SHOW IT
TO YOU.

HMM?

THE
STUDIO
FOR
\$225?









THE SUSPECT, AGE 35, UPON BEING QUESTIONED BY THE POLICE...

...STATED THAT, "I LOST MY TEMPER AND STABBED HIM, I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL HIM."



"I REALLY, REALLY WANTED TO TOUCH THEM. I APOLOGIZE TO THE VICTIM."

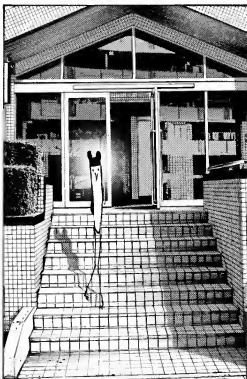


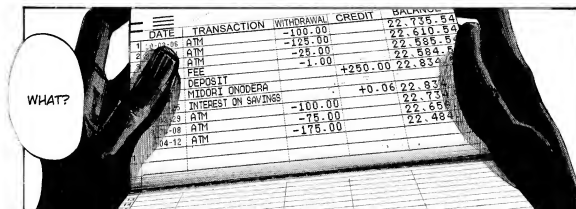
THE PRIME MINISTER, DURING A ROUTINE PRESS CONFERENCE, GAVE PRIORITY TO ADDRESSING THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE.

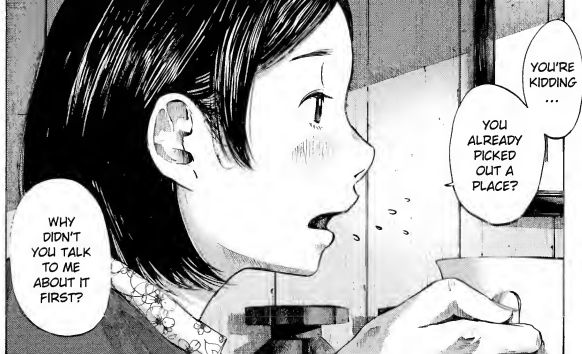
...CITY RESIDENTS NOTIFIED US THAT A LARGE NUMBERS OF FROGS HAVE BEEN RAINING DOWN ON THEM.

...OUR GUEST TODAY! HER LATEST SONG HAS BEEN RISING IN THE CHARTS...

803 ONODERA





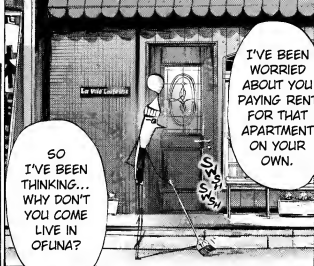




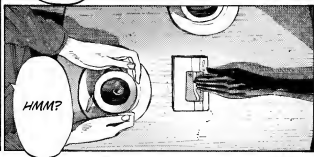
ISN'T THIS
FOR YOUR
MOM'S
SAVINGS
ACCOUNT?

YOU
DON'T
EVEN
HAVE A
REAL JOB
YET...

ARE YOU
SURE YOU
WANT ME
TO HANG
ON TO
THIS?



I'VE BEEN
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU
PAYING RENT
FOR THAT
APARTMENT
ON YOUR
OWN.



HMM?



"Not at all.
I'm fine."



ARE
YOU
SURE?

YOU'RE
NOT
JUST
BEING
IMPUL-
SIVE?





DID YOU
BRING
YOUR I.D.
AND THE
DEPOSIT?

HAVE
A SEAT
AND I'LL
EXPLAIN
THE
LEASE
TO YOU.



HI,
THERE.

OH...

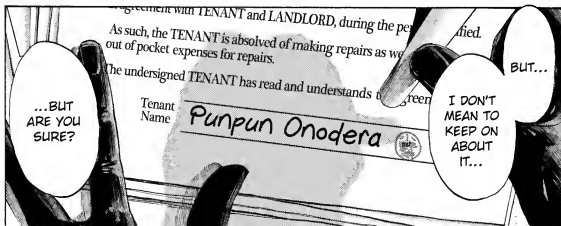


OH,
STAMP
THERE
TOO...

WE MANAGE
THE PROPERTY,
SO IF ANYTHING
HAPPENS, WE
CAN DEAL WITH
IT RIGHT AWAY,
SO THAT'S
CONVENIENT.

WELL
...

...IT'S
CLOSE TO
THE STATION
AND WE'RE
CHARGING CONSIDER-
ABLY BELOW
MARKET
VALUE...



As such, the TENANT is absolved of making repairs as well as paying for out of pocket expenses for repairs.

The undersigned TENANT has read and understands the terms of the agreement and has given his/her consent to the same.

Tenant
Name

Punpun Onodera

...BUT
ARE YOU
SURE?

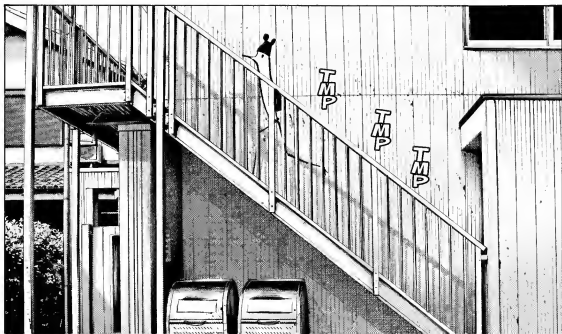
BUT...

I DON'T
MEAN TO
KEEP ON
ABOUT
IT...



It was such a simple thing, but it made him feel a little more grown-up.

That was the first time Punpun had signed a contract.



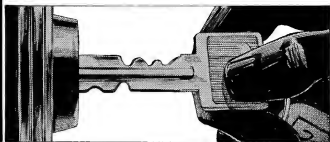
He'd
heard
it all
before.

Newbie,
creepy,
overly
sensitive
loser...

He
wouldn't
even
care if
someone
called him
names
now.

...but
Punpun
had never
thought
that he
could
be so
proactive.

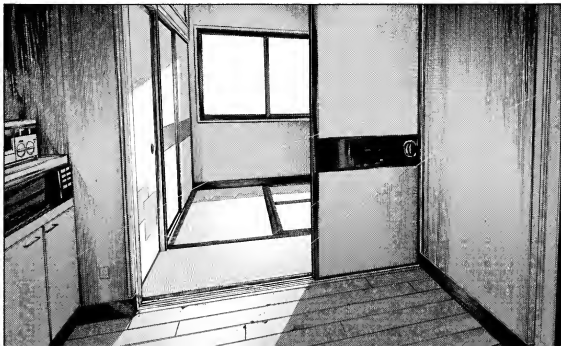
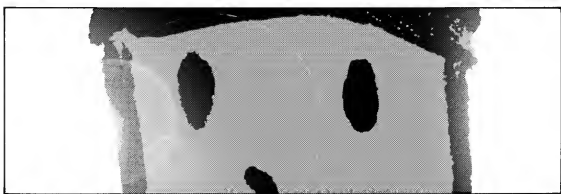
His
motives
were
suspect...



...with
a little
key.

...opened
quickly
and
easily...

The flimsy
door to the
cheap studio
apartment...





...was
to share
with
Aiko.

This
apartment...

But that
wasn't
a big
problem.

...he could
easily picture
himself being
incapable
of doing
anything
about it.

But
even if
Punpun
could
find
Aiko...

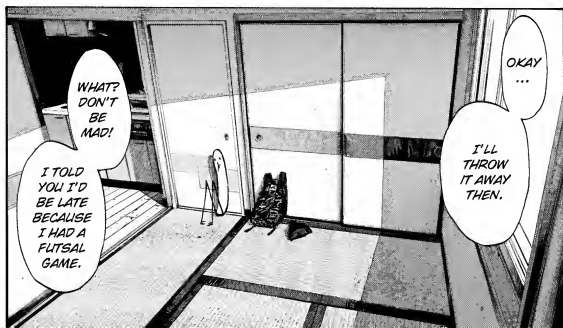
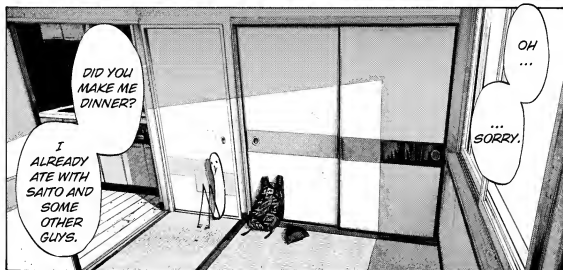


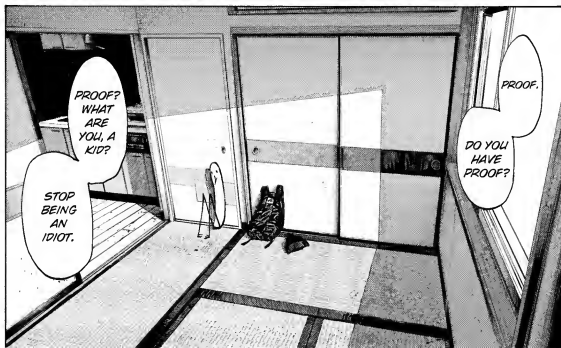
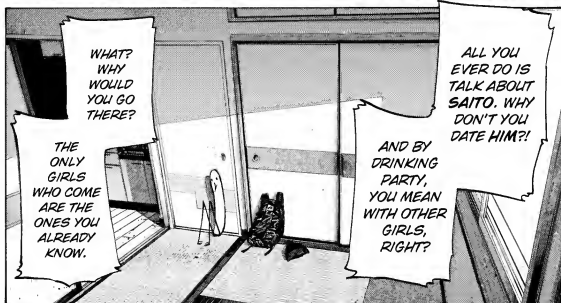
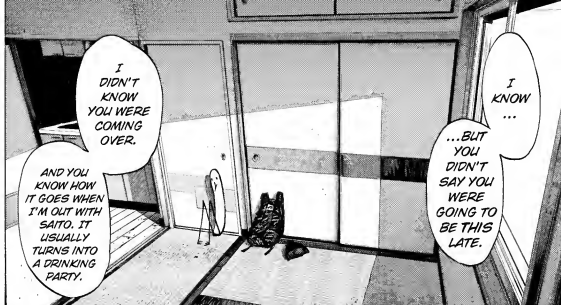
WHOA!

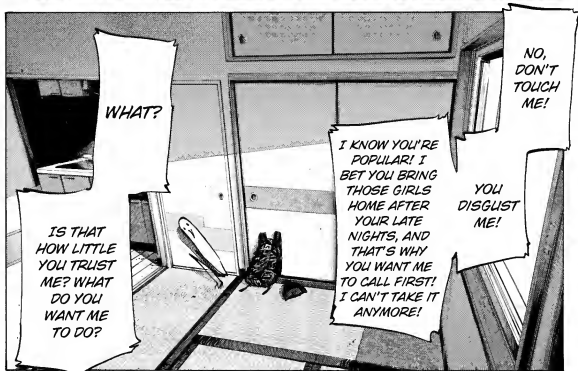
But he
was just
going to
have to.

...couldn't
find the
right
words.

He...



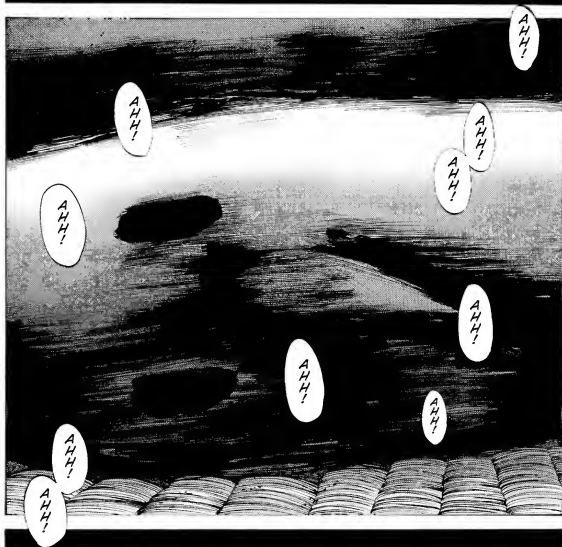






...that the
couple
next door
was ugly.

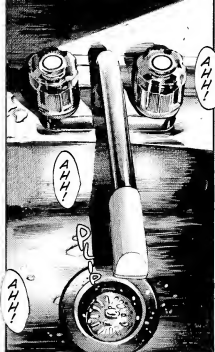
Punpun
hoped
from the
bottom of
his heart...



...if they
weren't.

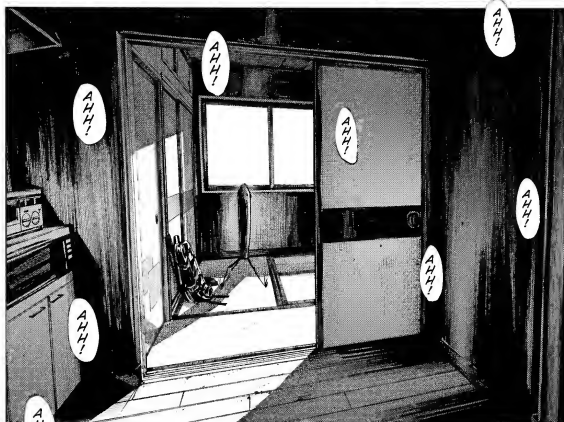
...he
didn't
think he
could
take it...

Actually...



...felt
as he
was
dying.

Pupun
wondered
how the
previous
tenant,
who had
died
here all
alone...



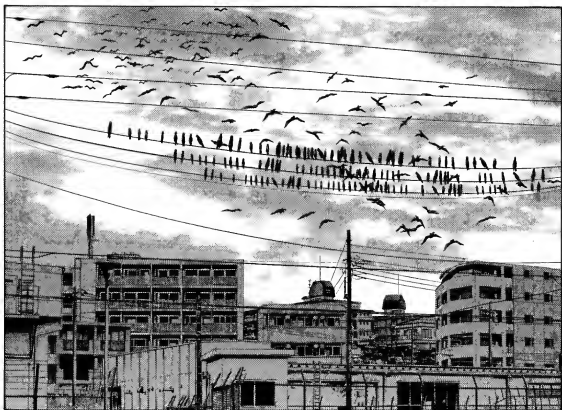
Pupun
suddenly
had a
thought.



...what if
nothing
had
changed?

...when
it was
time to
renew his
lease...

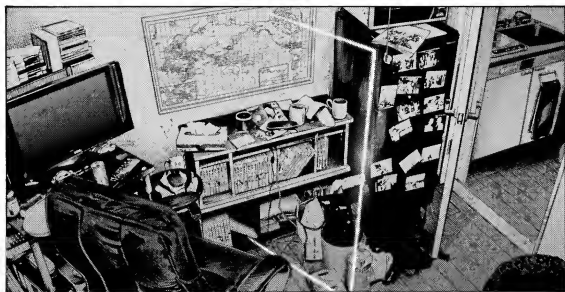
In two
years...



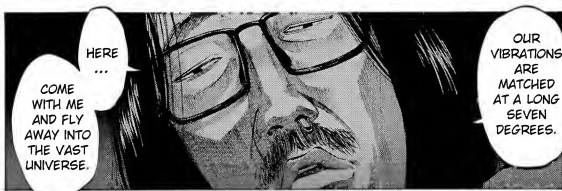
...he'd
die.

That's
when...













OH OH
OH OH OH,
PUNPLIN!

DON'T BE
NERVOUS.
LET'S
JUST STAY
ALIVE, OH
OH OH!



IT'S
STILL THE
DEAD OF
NIGHT, BUT
YOU KNOW,
THE SUN
ALWAYS
RISES...

SO,
ONOTTI,
HOW WAS
YOUR FIRST
DAY?

GOOD
JOB,
SUN-
SHINE!

YO...











...about
having
dreams
that would
never
come true.

Punpun
didn't
want to
think...

GEEZ

...

...
MORNING
ALREADY.



There's a
fine line
between
cool and
empty.

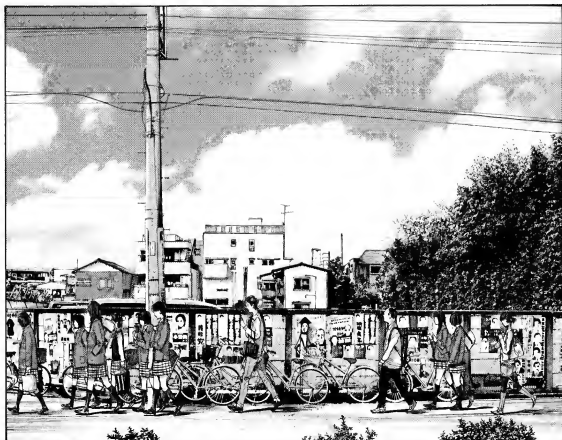


...worthy of
telling to
other
people
meant
they were
already
fulfilled.

But
maybe, in
a sense,
just
having
dreams
and
worries...

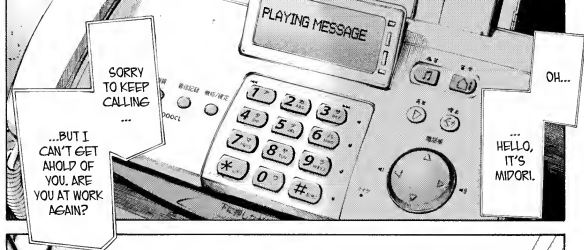


Punpun...



ONE
MESSAGE,
12:15 A.M.

...didn't
find Aiko
that day
either.





YOU'RE
SENSIBLE,
PUNPUN, SO
I'M NOT
WORRIED.

BUT...

...YOU
GET IT,
RIGHT?



PUNPUN
...

...DON'T
PUSH
YOUR-
SELF TOO
HARD,
OKAY?



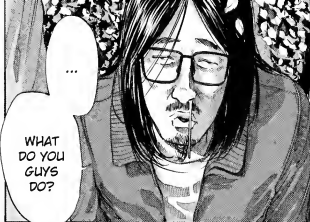
I...

...THINK YOU
SHOULD LET
PEOPLE
HELP YOU
MORE.



Punpun
was very
tired again
that day.



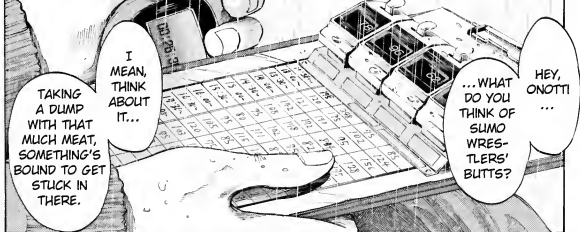










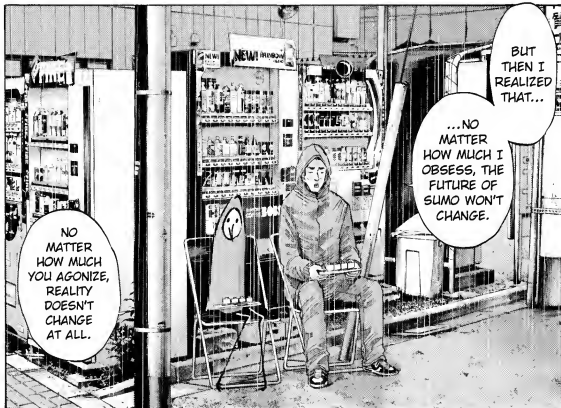


TAKING
A DUMP
WITH THAT
MUCH MEAT,
SOMETHING'S
BOUND TO GET
STUCK IN
THERE.

I
MEAN,
THINK
ABOUT
IT...

...WHAT
DO YOU
THINK OF
SUMO
WRES-
TLERS'
BUTTS?

HEY,
ONOTTI
...



NO
MATTER
HOW MUCH
YOU AGONIZE,
REALITY
DOESN'T
CHANGE
AT ALL.

BUT
THEN I
REALIZED
THAT...

...NO
MATTER
HOW MUCH I
OBSESS, THE
FUTURE OF
SUMO WON'T
CHANGE.



BUT NO
MATTER
HOW MUCH
I STRESS
ABOUT IT,
THE WORLD
DOESN'T
GET ANY
BETTER.

IT'S
LIKE
HOW...

AND TO MAKE
MATTERS WORSE,
UNLESS I SOLVE
THE VERY BORING
PROBLEMS RIGHT
IN FRONT OF ME,
MY PERSONAL
LIVELIHOOD IS IN
JEOPARDY.

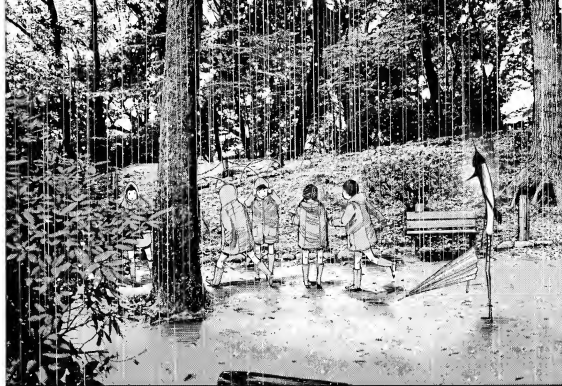
...I'VE
ALWAYS
WORRIED
ABOUT THE
FUTURE
OF ALL
MANKIND.





The
children
ran by,
giggling
innocently.

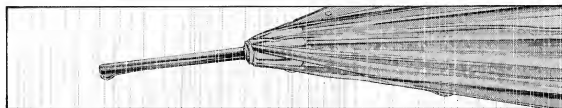




...made
Punpun...

...filled with
dreams and
hopes like
weird water
balloons...

Thinking
about the
round heads
of these
children...

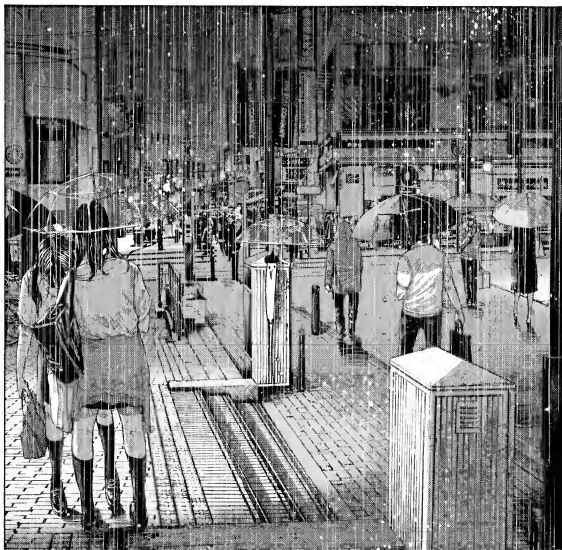


...never
mind.

No...



Punpun's
life...



No
matter
how
hard he
looked...



...much
like the
rainy
season,
which
seemed
like it
would
never
end.

...
continued
on without
change or
variation
...



...Punpun
couldn't
find Aiko.



ARE YOU
GETTING
ENOUGH
SLEEP?
OH OH
OH!

PUNPUN
...

...YOU HAVE
EVEN LESS
ENERGY
THAN USUAL
TODAY.



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO SAY
IT. I CAN
TELL JUST BY
LOOKING AT
YOUR GLOOMY
FACE.

PUNPUN
...

...YOU'RE
A VIRGIN,
RIGHT?

NO NEED TO
BE ANXIOUS!
ACTUALLY,
I'M ENVOUS
THAT YOU
STILL HAVE
AN UNKNOWN
WORLD TO
DISCOVER.



ANY TRIVIAL
PROBLEMS
YOUNG GUYS
LIKE YOU HAVE
WILL MELT
AWAY IF
YOU HAVE
SEX...

YOU
SHOULD
HAVE
SEX.

CAPICHE?
HYA HOO!

SEX IS
GOOD.



PUNPLIN,
YOU'RE
ONLY 18,
RIGHT?

I THINK
TEEN
GIRLS ARE
MANKIND'S
GREATEST
ASSET.

WELL,
I'M NOT
PICKY IF
THEY'RE IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL OR
GRADE
SCHOOL.

IF YOU
EVER GO
TO A MIXER,
PLEASE,
PLEASE
INVITE
ME...

I'LL
TEACH YOU
MY SECRET
METHOD FOR
GUARANTEED
SUCCESS.

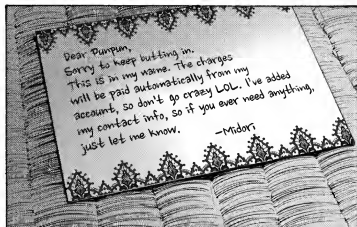
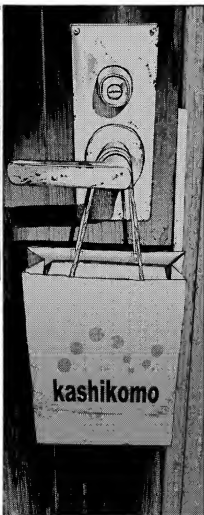


HUH?
YOU
DON'T
FEEL
WELL?

OKAY,
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.
GO HOME
AND
REST.

DON'T
FORGET
ABOUT THE
MIXER.
HAAH!

I'LL
THINK
SOME-
THING UP
TO TELL
THE MAN-
AGER.



...but
that was
not the
problem.

Everyone
surely
meant
well...



That
wasn't the
problem.



"Dear God,
dear God,
tinkle hoy."

...a man
was driven
to say...

In times
like this...



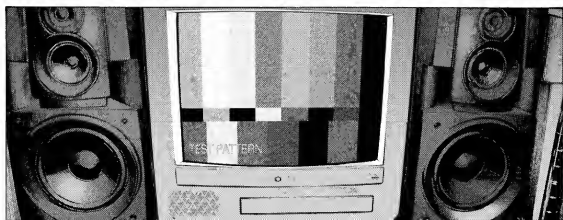
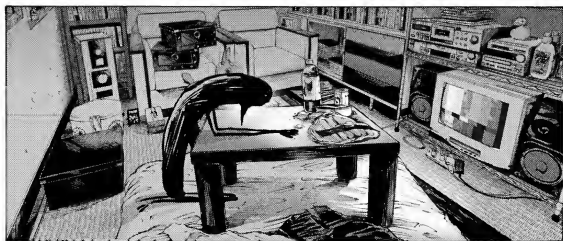
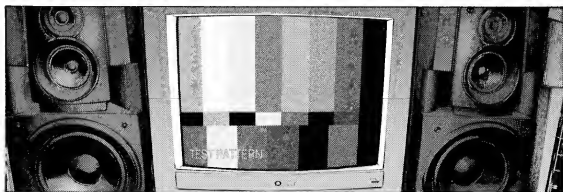
It was
stupid.

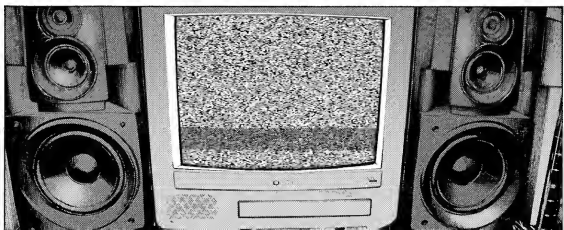
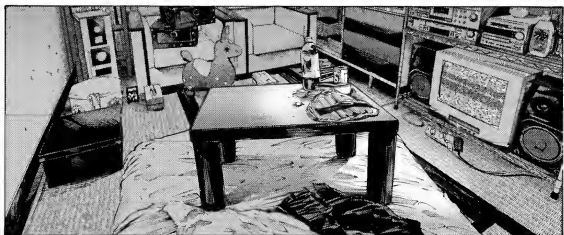
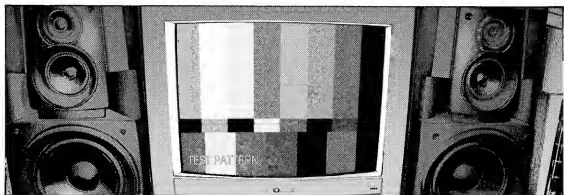


It was
his own
fault.

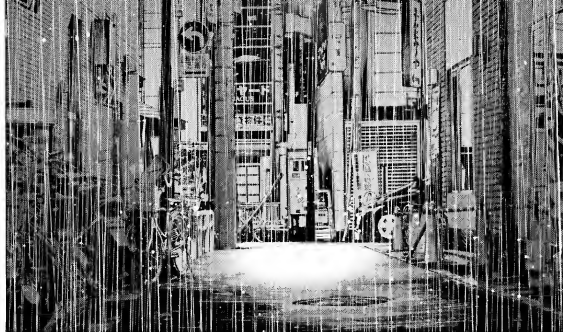


Oh.

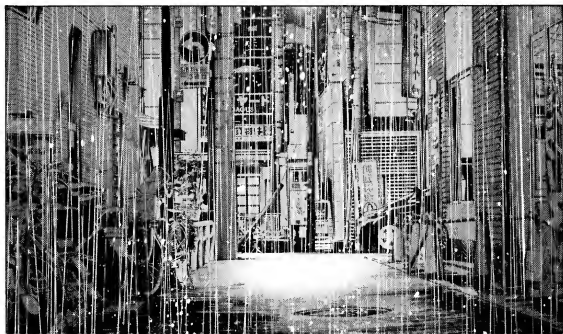
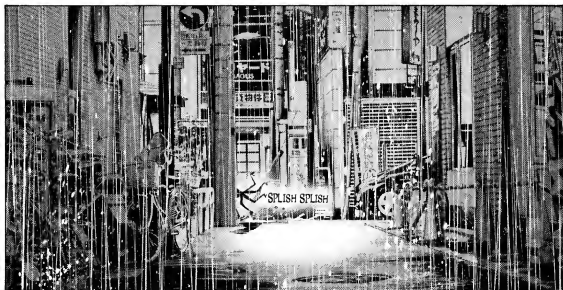
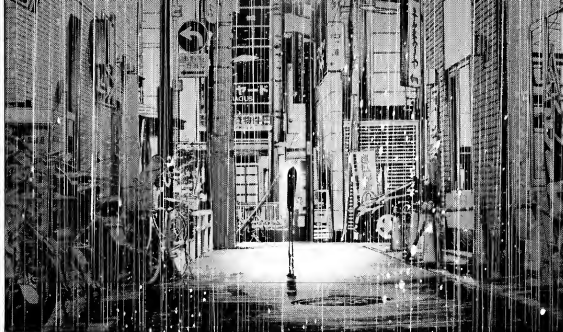






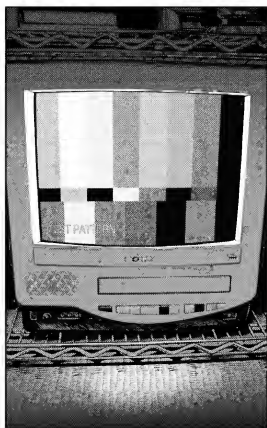


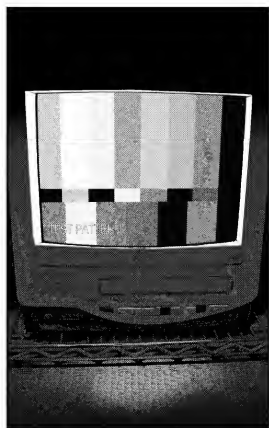


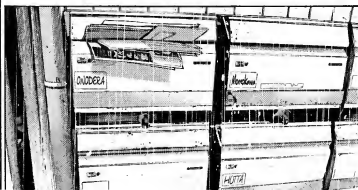


BOYABA
BOO!!









The
rain...



...was
coming
down
stupidly
...

...like
it had
forgotten
how to
stop.

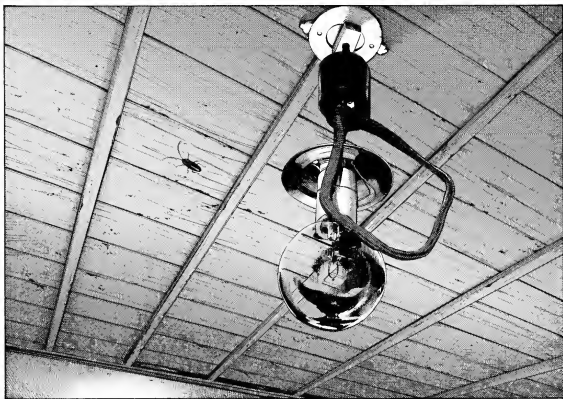


...as if it
wanted to
keep him
confined to
the 100-
square-
foot room.

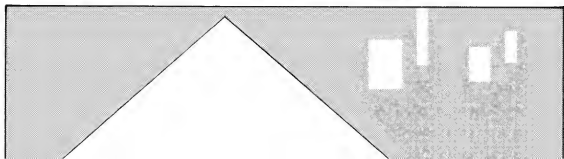
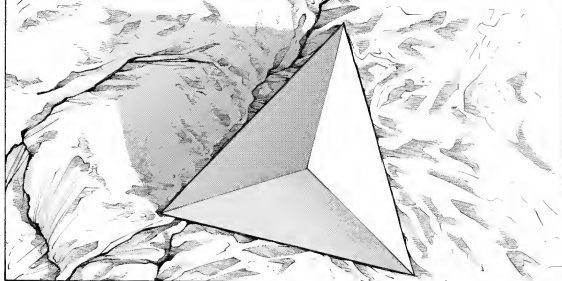
...the
louder
the rain
got...



The more
Punpun
thought
about how
he had to
get up and
go outside...



Sigh...

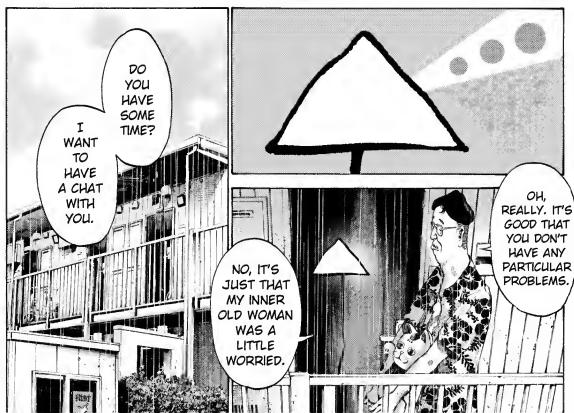


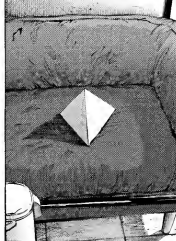


Punpun...



...was
doing
okay.





THE RAINY SEASON IS VERY SLOW FOR THE PROPERTY BUSINESS.

OH, JUST SHOOTING THE BREEZE, NOTHING SERIOUS...



I'M THINKING OF HAVING EEL. IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU?

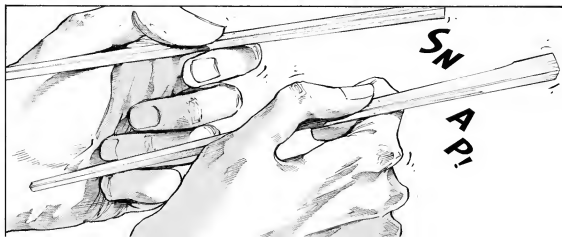
PUNPUN.



YOU'RE KEEPING A BORED OLD MAN COMPANY, YOU CAN INDULGE A LITTLE.

YOU'RE VERY HUMBLE FOR A YOUNG MAN.

OH ...





HE
BOUGHT INTO
A CRAZY CULT,
AND THERE
WAS A LITTLE
INCIDENT...

...BUT HE
WAS SERIOUS
AND HONEST
TO A FAULT.

DO YOU
REMEMBER
THE STORY
I TOLD YOU
WHEN YOU
SIGNED
YOUR
LEASE?

THE OLD
MAN WHO
USED TO
LIVE IN
YOUR ROOM
GOT SICK
AND DIED
THERE.



YOU
KNOW,
AROUND
THE EYES,
THE WAY
YOU ARE.

YOU
REMIN
ME OF
HIM,
PUNPUN...



OBVI-
OUSLY,
THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN DO
ABOUT IT
NOW...

...BUT
WHEN I
THINK ABOUT
HOW MAYBE
I COULD
HAVE SAVED
HIM...

IT'S
JUST THAT
IT'S BEEN
STUCK IN
THE BACK
OF MY
MIND.

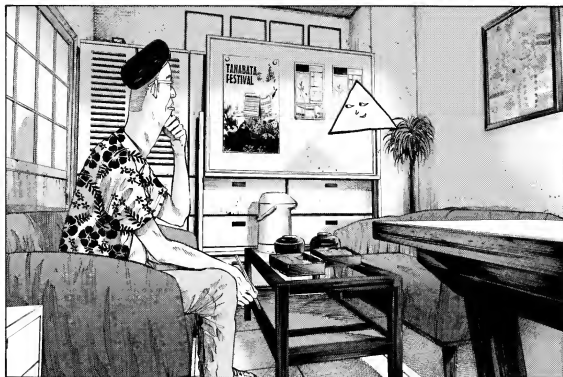
I'M
SORRY
IF I
OFFEND-
ED YOU.

OH,
NO,
NO...



...THE
SAD LOOK
IN THAT
OLD MAN'S
EYES.

I JUST
REMEM-
BER...



SOME
MIGHT
CALL YOU
STUB-
BORN.

EYES
THAT SAY
YOU HAVE
A SUR-
PRISINGLY
STRONG
WILL.

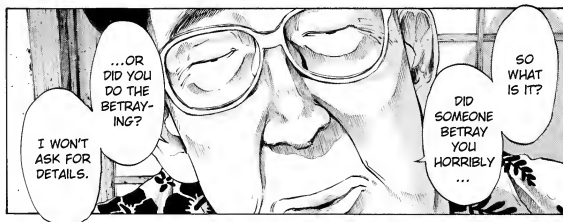
YOUR
EYES
ARE THE
SAME.

YEAH...



THAT'S
WHAT
YOUR
EYES
ARE
TELLING
ME.

BUT YOU
NEVER
OPEN
UP TO
OTHERS.

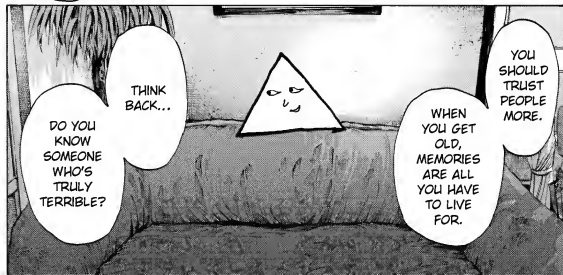


...OR
DID YOU
DO THE
BETRAY-
ING?

I WON'T
ASK FOR
DETAILS.

SO
WHAT
IS IT?

DID
SOMEONE
BETRAY
YOU
HORRIBLY
...

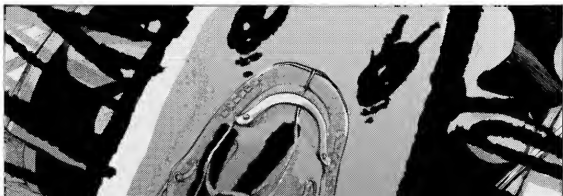


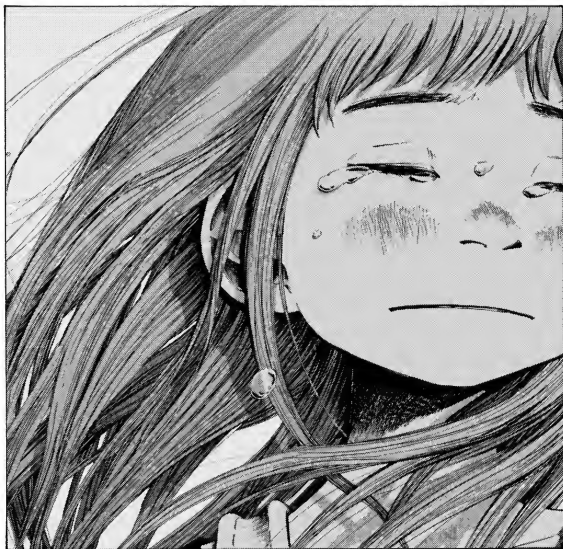
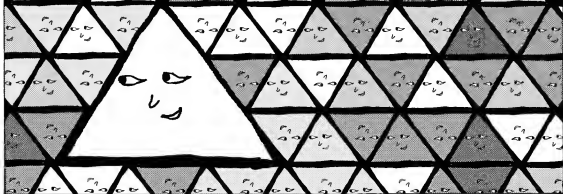
THINK
BACK...

DO YOU
KNOW
SOMEONE
WHO'S
TRULY
TERRIBLE?

YOU
SHOULD
TRUST
PEOPLE
MORE.

WHEN
YOU GET
OLD,
MEMORIES
ARE ALL
YOU HAVE
TO LIVE
FOR.



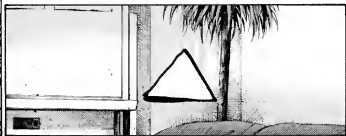


EVEN
IF I'M
BETRAYED,
AS LONG
AS I'M
THE ONLY
ONE WHO'S
HURT, IT'S
OKAY.

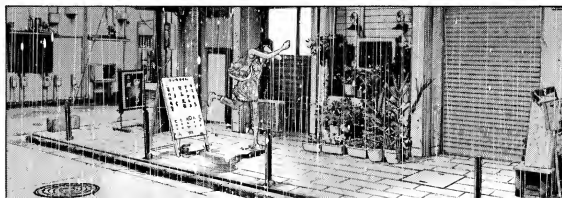
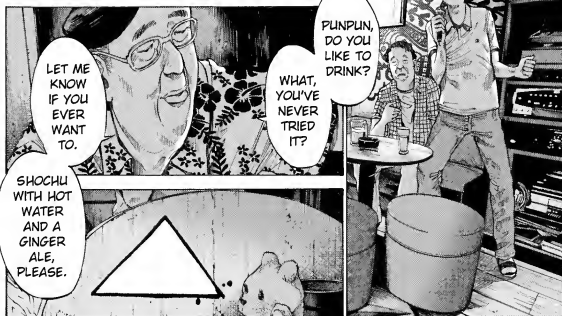
BESIDES,
BEING
SUSPICIOUS
OF OTHERS
ONLY MAKES
THEM HAVE
BAD
FEELINGS
ABOUT
ME.

...MAKE
IT A POLICY
TO GIVE
EVERYONE
THE BENEFIT
OF THE DOUBT
UNTIL THEY
DO ME
WRONG.

I...









HEY,
THROW ME
A TOWEL,
PLEASE!

GEEZ...

I'M
SOAKED!



NO,
IT'S NOT.
BUT I'M
DRINKING
ANYWAY.

BUT IT'S
BEEN HARD
TO GET
HERE SINCE
I HEARD
YOU QUIT.

OH,
COME
ON...

I STOP
BY ON THE
WAY HOME
FROM WORK
PRETTY
OFTEN.



HEY,
SACHI.

OH, MR.
SHISHIDO,
IT'S BEEN
A WHILE.
IS YOUR
LIVER
BETTER?



OH
DEAR,
DID YOU
FIND A
JOB?

JUST
LISTENING
TO OLD
MEN'S DIRTY
STORIES
MEANS I
CAN DRINK
FOR FREE.



YEAH,
YEAH.

TEACHER
IN A CRAM
SCHOOL. I
CAN'T PRETEND
TO BE HEART-
BROKEN AND
HANG AROUND
FOREVER, YOU
KNOW.

CAN I
HAVE A
GLASS OF
WATER?



YEAH,
THAT'S
PUNPIN
ONODERA,
ONE OF OUR
TENANTS.

UM
...

THE
YOUNG
GUY
NEXT TO
YOU. IS
HE WITH
YOU?



★

★

Chapter 78

★



WE'VE
DEFINITELY
MET SOME-
WHERE!

MMM...

...
YOU.



I
REMEMBER.

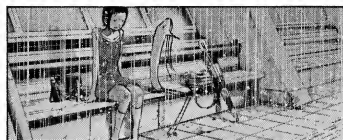
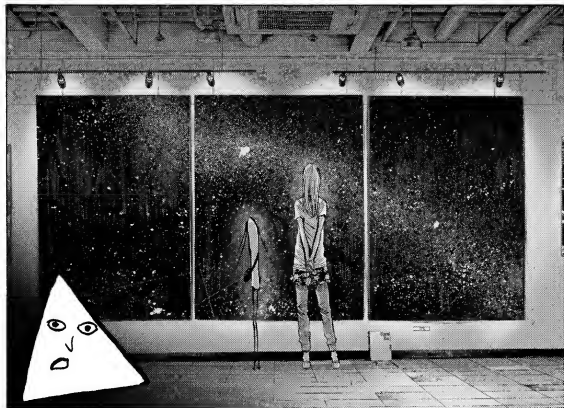
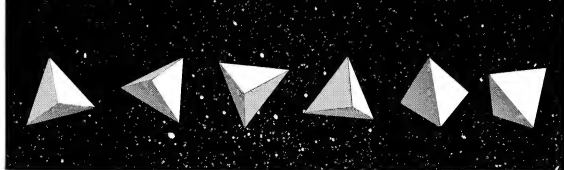
OH!



YOU
CAME WITH
AZUSA TO
SEE THAT
ART EXHIBI-
TION?!

WHEN
WAS
IT?

I WAS
19, SO
THREE
YEARS
AGO?



Punpun
couldn't
be
bothered,
so he
decided
to profess
ignorance.

"Was it
really?"



IT WAS
RAINING
THEN TOO,
JUST LIKE
TODAY.



DEAR
ME.

AH,
ONCE
AGAIN I'VE
BECOME
DRUNK,
CHARMED
BY OUR PRO-
PRIETRESS'S
BEAUTY.

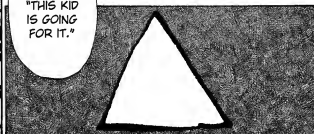
THE
FIRST
NIGHT WE
MET WAS
SOGGY
LIKE THIS
ONE.



THAT'S
RIGHT,
YEAH. I
REMEMBER
NOW.

YOUR
HAIR WAS
STICKING
UP AND
YOU WERE
WEARING A
DESIGNER
T-SHIRT...

I
THOUGHT,
"THIS KID
IS GOING
FOR IT."



DAN
DAH
DAH
DAN

CHAARA
CHA-
CHAARA
CHAARA
CHA CHA

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PLEASE
LISTEN
TO MY
RENDITION
OF
"IZAKAYA."

I,
HEIROKU
SHISHIDO,
ALTHOUGH
INCOMPE-
TENT, WILL
ATTEMPT
A SONG.

GO,
HEIRO!

AZUSA?

KANIE GOT
HERSELF
GAINFULLY
EMPLOYED
BEFORE ME, SO
I DON'T HAVE
MUCH OPPOR-
TUNITY TO FIND
OUT WHAT'S
UP...

OH,
BY KANIE
I MEAN THE
FAT ONE WITH
THE GLASSES,
AZUSA'S
SISTER.

I'M SURE
SHE'S FINE. I
HAVEN'T SEEN
HER RECENTLY,
BUT SHE
MOVED OUT
ON HER OWN
WHEN SHE
STARTED
COLLEGE.

...HAVE
A
DRINK.

♠
IF
YOU
DON'T
DISLIKE
ME...

...SO I'M
SURE SHE'S
MAKING UP
FOR IT EVERY
NIGHT. IT'S A
RECIPE FOR
TROUBLE.

SHE
DIDN'T
LOOSE
HER
VIRGINITY
AS SCHED-
ULED...

OH YEAH,
SHE DID SAY
AZUSA GOT
A BOYFRIEND
RIGHT AFTER
SHE STARTED
COLLEGE.

...A
DOUBLE
BOUR-
BON;

♥
OKAY
THEN,
I WILL
HAVE...

...LET
ALONE
YOUR
LIFE
STORY.

♠
I'M NOT
DUMB
ENOUGH
TO ASK
YOUR
NAME...





HAVING
SAID THAT,
AZUSA WAS
PRETTY
BUMMED
AFTERWARD.

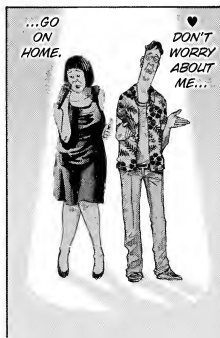
I THINK
SHE WAS
PRETTY
INTO
YOU.

HOW
BADLY DID
YOU SCREW
UP THAT YOU
COULDN'T
GET LAID
UNDER THOSE
CONDITIONS?



♥
OKAY,
STAY
UNTIL IT
STOPS,
I'LL JUST
DRINK
ALONE.

♠
IF WE GO
OUTSIDE,
IT WILL BE
RAINING.
IT WAS
SPRINKLING
BEFORE...



...GO
ON
HOME.

♥
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
ME...



♠
THEN
I'M HERE
TILL THE
MORNING.



I'VE MET AN
UNFORTUNATE
WOMAN.



♥♥
NO ART, NO
FLOWERS, NO
SONGS, NO FANCY
WORDS...



OH
...
...
SORRY.

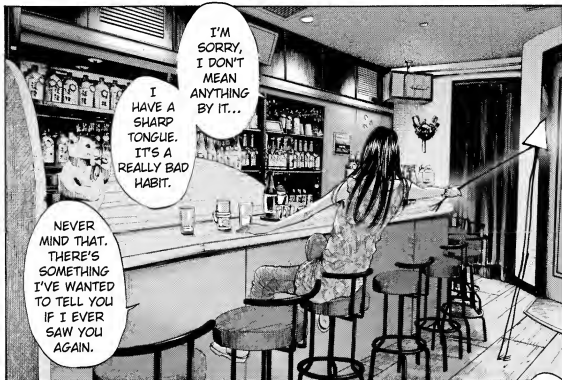
ARE
YOU NOT
OVER
AZUSA
YET?

"I'm not still
pining for her.
But your
rudeness is
off-putting."



...OR
STYLE
IN THIS
IZAKAYA.

"Excuse me,
I'm leaving."



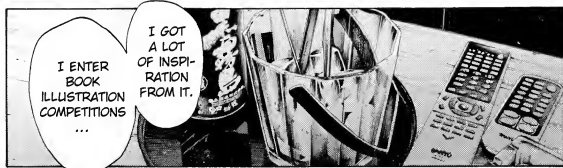


OF
COURSE, IT
STILL NEEDS
A LOT OF
REVISION...

...BUT I
THOUGHT IT
WAS REALLY
INTERESTING.

IT'S...

...SET IN
OUTER
SPACE, BUT
IT'S YOUR
STORY,
RIGHT?



I ENTER
BOOK
ILLUSTRATION
COMPETITIONS
...

I GOT
A LOT OF INSPI-
RATION
FROM IT.



I
BELIEVE
IN YOUR
TALENT,
PUNPUN.

...INTER-
ESTED IN
WRITING
IT OUT
PROPERLY,
AS A REAL
STORY?

ARE
YOU
AT
ALL...



WHOA,
LOOK
AT YOU,
PUTTING
IT AWAY.



ACEA
ACEA
ACEA
ACEA



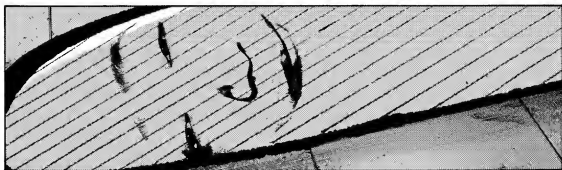
HUH?
A
DRINK?

THIS
IS MR.
SHISHIDO'S,
BUT WHY
DON'T YOU
HAVE IT?





OH
MY.



"You
shouldn't
get caught
up with
me."



WAIT,
WHAT?



WATER!

OH
GEEZ,
WHAT
A PAIN
IN THE
ASS.

CAN'T
YOU
HOLD
YOUR
LIQUOR?

"No, no, not to worry, I'm not drunk at all... By the way, Nanjo, is it okay if I tug your nipple?"



"Can you please not tell him that when he found a girlfriend, I truly hoped she was ugly?"

"I don't dislike Mimura..."

"...and I'm not a virgin, so can you not make fun of me, please?"

"I'll just get cocky if you compliment me..."

"That story was just luck..."



I don't know what to do. But I have to do something.

I search and I search, and I can't find what I'm looking for.

Actually I'm a demon sent from Geldark, the god of hell. Oh, that's a lie.

So I told you it's dangerous to be around me...

PUNPUN, WHO'S MIMURA?

MIMURA?

HEY, MR. SHISHIDO, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS KID IS? I'M PRETTY WASTED TOO.

PUNPUN... HEY...

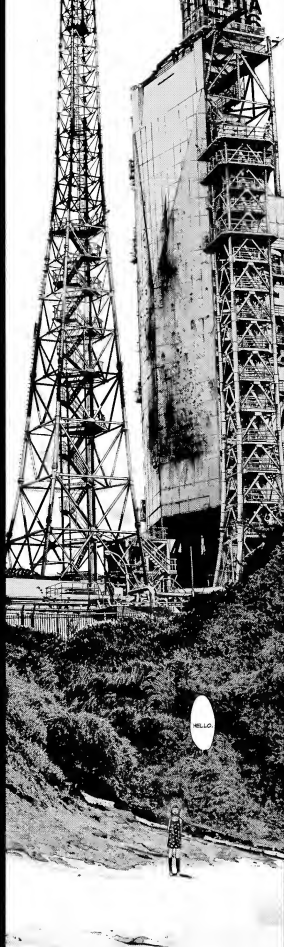
DO YOU WANT TO GO DOWN HELLO. LIE OVER THERE?

That's terrible, isn't it? Hee hee.

...it's oddly comforting...

Lately, when I pretend to be mentally ill...

HELLO.



Oh...

...it's
Aiko...

She's
so far
away...

Aiko is
always
just a
little
too far
away.



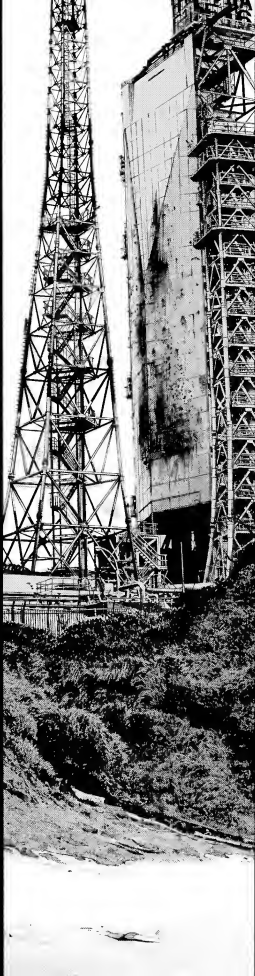
Maybe
you
cursed
me...

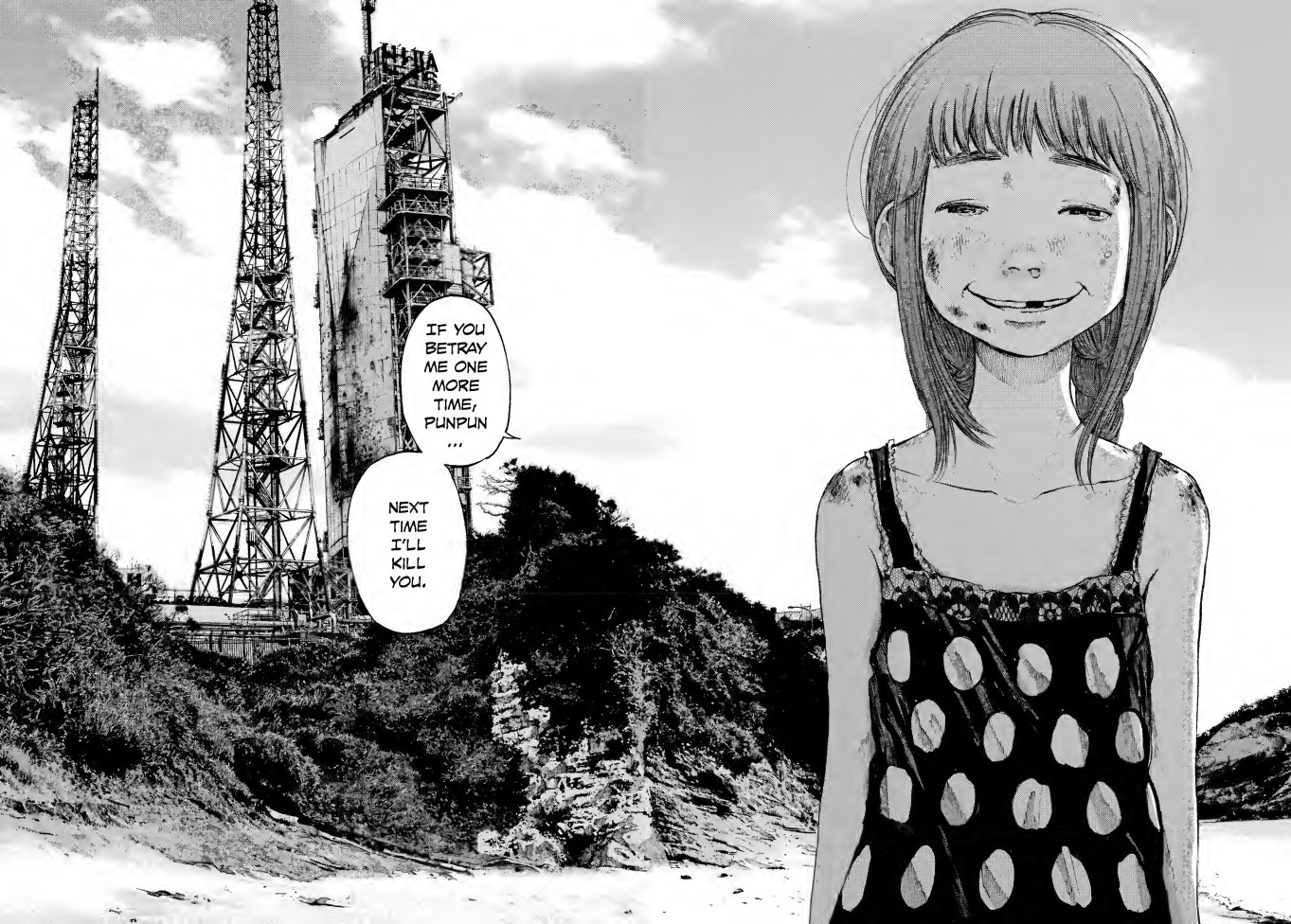
Hey,
Aiko...

As long as
you're not
a dream or a
hallucination...

...I don't
think I can
really love
anyone
again.

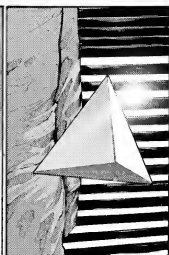
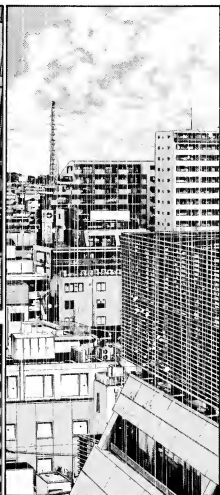
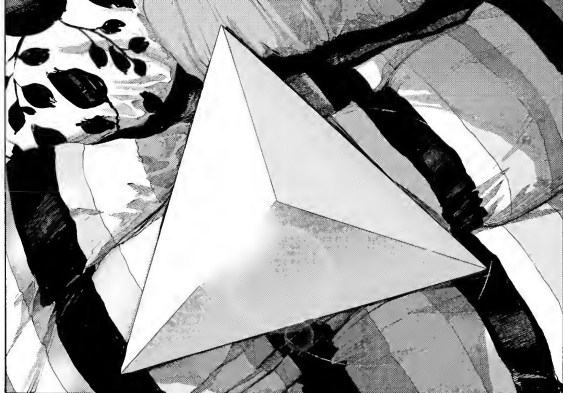
Help
me,
Aiko.

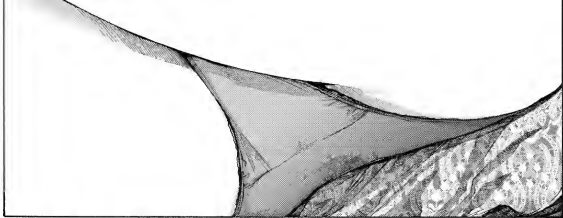




IF YOU
BETRAY
ME ONE
MORE
TIME,
PUNPUN
...

NEXT
TIME
I'LL
KILL
YOU.





Huh?



Huh?



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN INIO ASANO
Part Seven

BACKGROUND ASSISTANTS: Yuki Toribuchi
Satsuki Sato
CG ASSISTANT: Hisashi Saito
COOPERATION: Kumatsuto
Yu Uehara



.



.





Part Eight

CONTENTS

STORY THUS FAR...

Having mistaken ulterior motive for motivation, Punpun moves out on his own. He later meets up again with the dark-haired artist with the center part. She then comes on to him big-time. Punpun is in a tizzy.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



PUNPUN ONODERA

An 18-year-old part-timer. He is invincible.



SACHI NANJO

A 22-year-old cram school teacher. Her glasses are the core of her being, so she dies if they come off.



YUKINOSHIN MIMURA

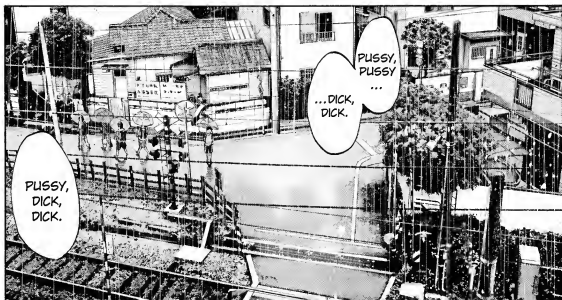
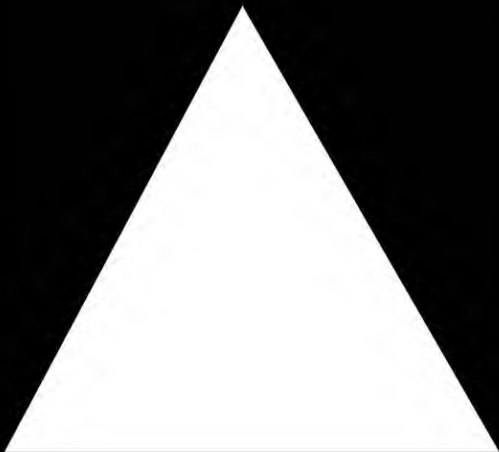
An 18-year-old college student.
"The moon will be dyed red again tonight."

Chapter 79	233
Chapter 80	253
Chapter 81	271
Chapter 82	289
Chapter 83	309
Chapter 84	327
Chapter 85	349
Chapter 86	367
Chapter 87	387
Chapter 88	409
Chapter 89	431











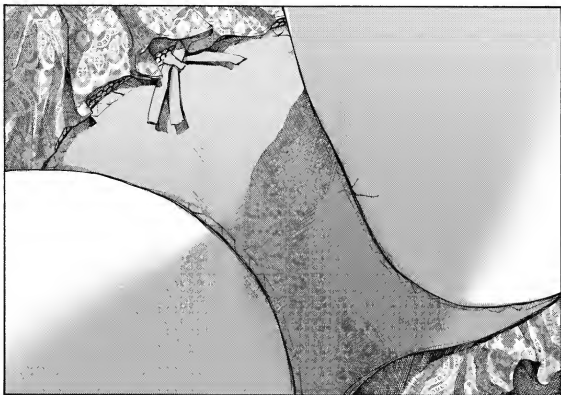
KAPOW!

PUSSY,
DICK,
DICK.

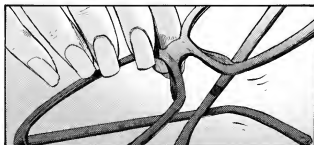
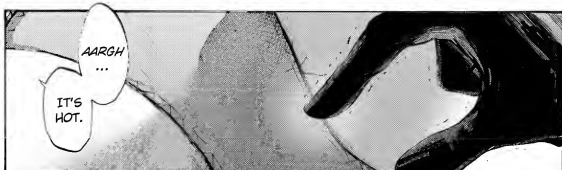
PUSSY,
PUSSY
...
DICK,
DICK.



Oh.



Hair.





I'M
HUNG-
OVER, SO
I'M GOING
TO GO
TAKE A
SHOWER

...BUT
THEN I'LL
MAKE
BREAKFAST.
DO YOU
WANT TO
STAY?

YOU
UP?



PUNPUN.



HOW
CAN HE
CRASH
THAT
HARD IN
SOMEONE
ELSE'S
BED?

HE'S A
REST-
LESS
SLEEPER,
THIS ONE.







...Punpun
told
another
stupid lie.

And
just
like
that...



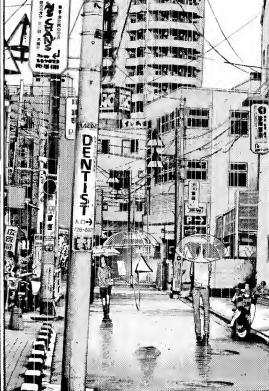
They
should
die, no
excuses.

Liars
are
bad.

Why did
Punpun have so
much trouble
relating to
other people?

Time to
show
us your
sense
of
justice.

Hey,
hot
stuff!



Why is
everyone
looking so
relaxed and
leaving me
alone?
Idiots.

People
like me
should
just hurry
up and
get killed.



No,
stop that
now.

...would
Punpun have to
keep obsessing
over the same
thing, over and
over, before he
was satisfied?

How
many
times...

The last
few
months...



He
was a
natural-
born
idiot,
after
all.



...any-
more?

Who
even
cared...

That's
right.

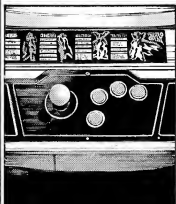


...he
would
find
Aiko
today.

It's
not
like...

...he
should
just peel
off her
clothes
and
shove
his meat
in, no
matter
who she
was.

If he got
another
opportu-
nity with
Miss Sass
Pants...



It
didn't
matter
anymore.

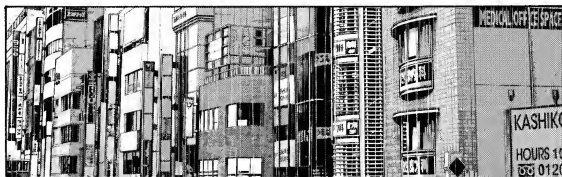
"I
wonder
if they
would
execute
me?!"

"I
wonder
if the
police
would
arrest
me?"





Pyun!





\$2.00

LOCKER

SPORTS

PHOTOS

Yakoma

His sighs
were sucked
into the town's
irritation and
resignation.

The
unpleasant
humidity
entwined
itself around
Punpun's body
like a fog.

...the rain
slithered
down.

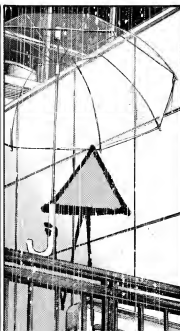
Once
again...



...he
would be
unable to
remember
what
he was
trying to
do.

But
there was
a danger
that by
wandering
the streets
like a
zombie
day after
day...

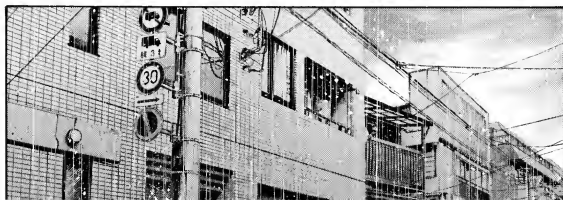
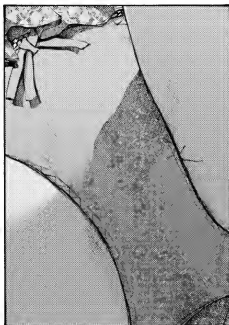
OH.

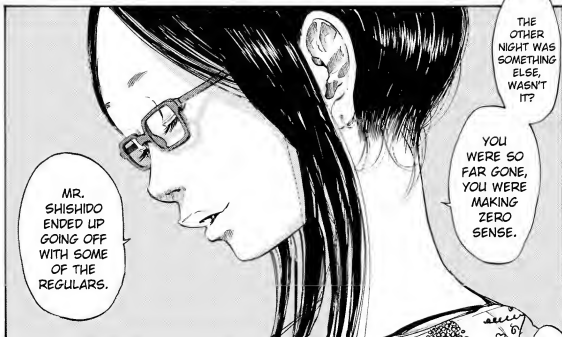


...that
he could
think
about
anything
anymore.

Punpun
wasn't
sure...







MR.
SHISHIDO
ENDED UP
GOING OFF
WITH SOME
OF THE
REGULARS.

THE
OTHER
NIGHT WAS
SOMETHING
ELSE,
WASN'T
IT?

YOU
WERE SO
FAR GONE,
YOU WERE
MAKING
ZERO
SENSE.

Punpun
remem-
bered
now.

...that's
right...

Oh...



OH,
SORRY.
DO YOU
WANT A
DRINK?



OH
...

...AND
SINCE YOU
SEEMED
WORRIED
ABOUT
IT...

...THERE
WERE NO
DRUNKEN
SHENANIGANS,
SO DON'T
STRESS.

If his
destiny
was to
return
to this
room...



YOU
SHOULD
PROBABLY
LAY OFF
THE
BOOZE.

HOW
ABOUT
SOME
OOLONG
TEA?

I JUST
BOUGHT
A BUNCH
YESTERDAY.



I
COULD HAVE
SWORN IT
WAS AROUND
HERE SOME-
WHERE...

HUH?

...then
he must
stick his
cock in
her sassy
pussy.







HERE
...

...DIG
IN!

YOU'RE
BROKE,
RIGHT?

YOU LOOK
PALE. YOU
SHOULD EAT
BETTER.



UGH,
THEY'RE
IRRITAT-
ING.

I HAVE
NATTO AND
KIMCHI,
SO HELP
YOURSELF.

LET ME
KNOW IF
IT'S TOO
BLAND.

IF
THERE'S
ANYTHING
YOU DON'T
LIKE, JUST
SHOVE IT
ASIDE.

MODEL-
TURNED-
CELEBRITY
IS TOO
GREEDY,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

COR-
RECT.

OSHA-
MANBE,
HOK-
KAIDO!

"Is it because
you have
confidence in
yourself that
you can be
kind to other
people?"

"You're
surprisingly
kind,
Nanjo."

OH, YOU
CAN
CHANGE
THE
CHANNEL.

MUST BE
NICE TO
BE SO
BLESSED.

YOU
THINK?

HMMM?

THIS IS
JUST
NORMAL.

I'VE GOT
THE USUAL
AMOUNT
OF SELF-
INTEREST IN
BEING LIKED,
JUST LIKE
EVERYONE
ELSE.

WOW,
THAT'S A
TWISTED
WAY TO
THINK.

AND
"SURPRIS-
INGLY"?
THAT'S
UNCALLED-
FOR.

Punpun
wished he
hadn't said
anything
at all.

"I'm not
very good
at talking
to people."

"I'm
sorry..."



THEN
MAKE
SOME.

OR GO
TO THE
STORE
AND BUY
SOME.

SO YOU
DON'T
HAVE ANY
SELF-CON-
FIDENCE?

HMMMM
...



THAT
MUST GET
REALLY
EXHAUST-
ING.

JUST TALK
NATURALLY.
SAY WHAT
YOU THINK.

YOU
KNOW
...

...I'VE
NOTICED
THAT YOU
STRESS
OUT ABOUT
EVERY-
THING.



THAT'S
OKAY.
I'M
THICK-
SKINNED.

JUST
BE
YOUR-
SELF.

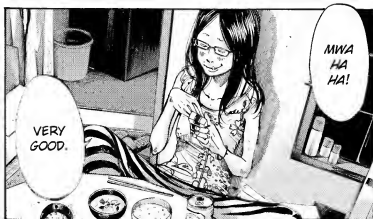
"I'm
scared
that...that
natural
will hurt
the
person I'm
speaking
to."





"No...
That's
okay."





"It's
delicious."



"Not only do I not have a girlfriend, I don't even have friends."



"I..."



"...so I lied and said I had plans so I could leave."

"I was feeling really awkward the other day..."



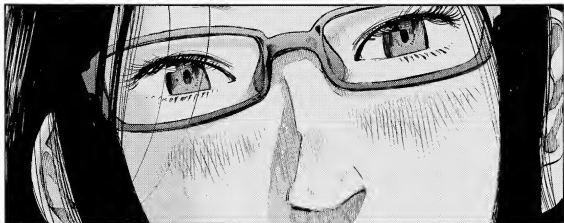
"While you were passed out, I stared at your bare legs and your thighs. To be exact, I was mostly looking at your crotch."



"...so
that's
why
I ran
away.

"...and was
like, **whoa**,
and then
I was like,
yikes...

"I
saw your
pubic hair
popping
out...



"As long
as I'm
being
honest...





"...jerked off
for the first
time in three
years last
night."



★

★

★

★

★

★

★

★

★

★

★

★

"...I was
masturbating
continuously.

"...to be more
accurate,
between the
hours of last
night and this
morning...

"Actually...

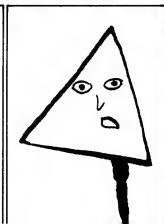
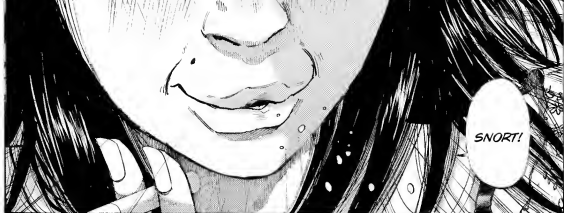


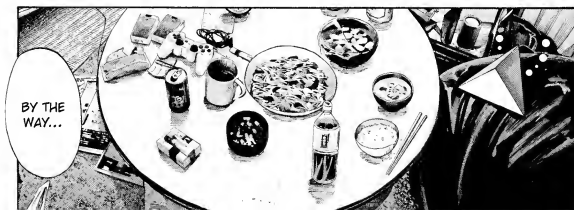
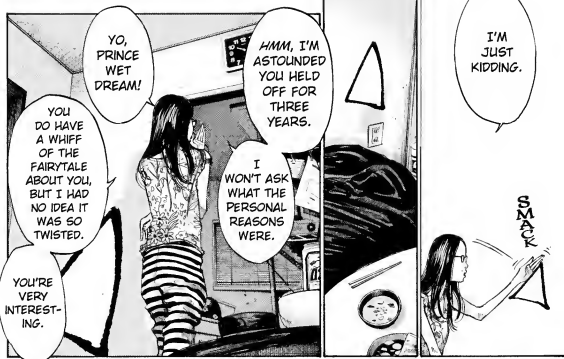
★

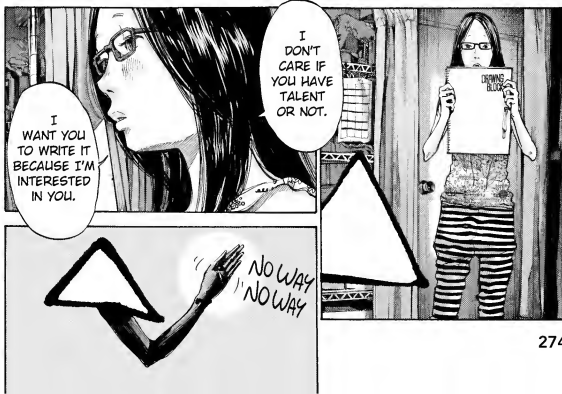
"...so
it was
incredibly
powerful."



"I've
prohibited
myself from
masturbating
since high
school for
personal
reasons...







△,,,,

YOU
CAN'T
HIDE
FROM
ME.

I
ASKED MR.
SHISHIDO
FOR YOUR
ADDRESS.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
"NO WAY"?
YOU'RE NOT
DOING
ANYTHING
ELSE.

PUNPUN
...

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOUR
ISSUE
IS...

...AND I
GET THAT IF
YOU'RE BY
YOURSELF
YOU CAN'T
HURT
ANYONE.

I GET
THAT
YOU'RE
REALLY
EARNEST
...

...BUT IS
THERE
A POINT
TO YOU
JUST
HIDING
AWAY?

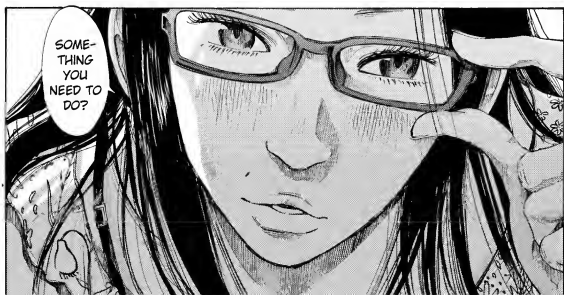
AM I
RIGHT?

AND
BESIDES,
YOU'RE
NOT THAT
STRONG...

BUT THE
WORLD ISN'T
SIMPLE
ENOUGH
FOR YOU TO
SURVIVE ALL
ON YOUR
OWN.



"I...I have
something I
need to do."

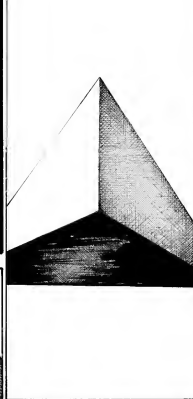
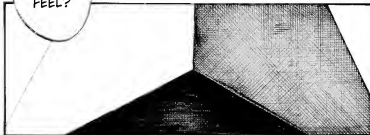




SETTLE
THINGS?

"I need
to settle
things with
a girl I used
to love."

ARE YOU
GOING TO
TELL HER
HOW YOU
FEEL?



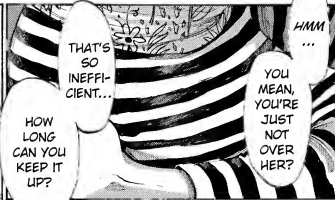
"...so today,
just like every
other day, I
walked around
town looking
for her."

"...but
I feel
like I
need to
see her
again..."

"No,
not
really..."



AND
IF YOU
DON'T
FIND
HER BY
THEN?



THAT'S
SO
INEFFI-
CIENT...

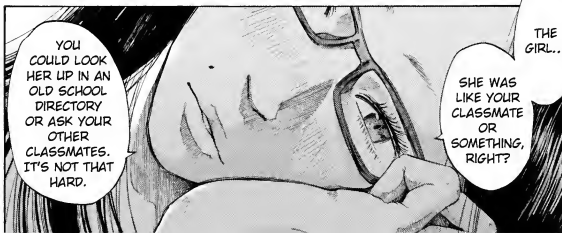
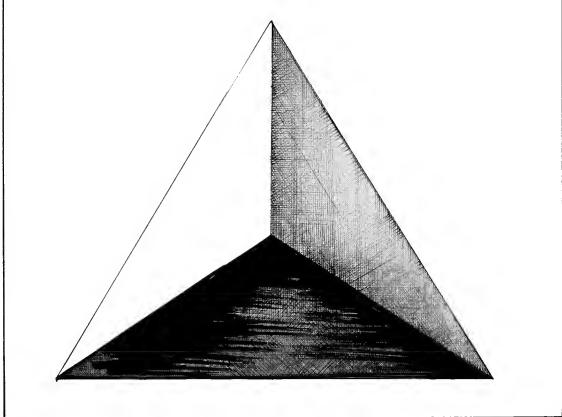
HOW
LONG
CAN YOU
KEEP IT
UP?

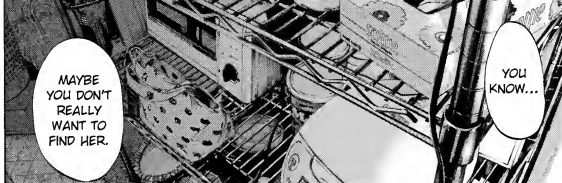
HMM
...

YOU
MEAN,
YOU'RE
JUST
NOT
OVER
HER?

"...until
the lease is
up on my
apartment."

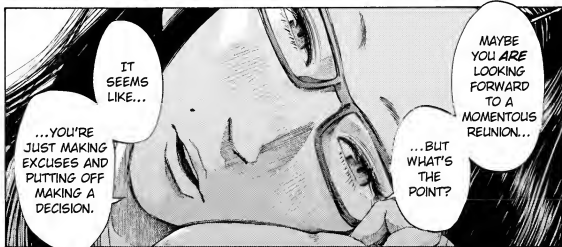
"For
two
years..."





MAYBE
YOU DON'T
REALLY
WANT TO
FIND HER.

YOU
KNOW...



IT
SEEMS
LIKE...

...YOU'RE
JUST MAKING
EXCUSES AND
PUTTING OFF
MAKING A
DECISION.

MAYBE
YOU ARE
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO A
MOMENTOUS
REUNION...

...BUT
WHAT'S
THE
POINT?

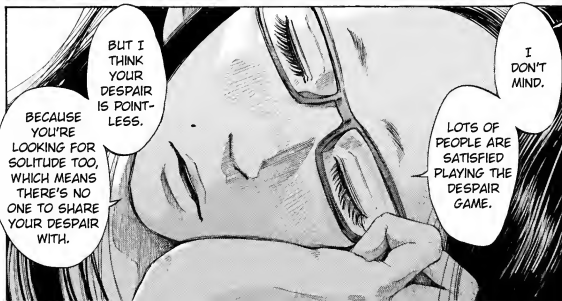


...BUT
IN REALITY
YOU'LL BE
LIVING AN UN-
PRODUCTIVE
LIFE WITHOUT
THINKING OR
DOING A
THING.

YOU'LL
APPEAR
CON-
FLICTED
...

I
THINK IN
TEN YEARS
YOU'LL STILL
BE LOOKING
FOR
EXCUSES.

I
SUSPECT
IT WON'T
BE JUST
TWO
YEARS.



BUT I
THINK
YOUR
DESPAIR
IS POINT-
LESS.

BECAUSE
YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR
SOLITUDE TOO,
WHICH MEANS
THERE'S NO
ONE TO SHARE
YOUR DESPAIR
WITH.

I
DON'T
MIND.

LOTS OF
PEOPLE ARE
SATISFIED
PLAYING THE
DESPAIR
GAME.



I THINK
BUMPING
INTO ME
AGAIN WAS
LIKE FATE.

SO,
PUNPUN
...

BUT
WHETHER YOU
ACCEPT IT AS
FATE OR A MERE
COINCIDENCE IS
UP TO YOU.



I'M
INTERESTED
IN WHAT YOU
MEAN BY
"SETTLING
THINGS."

DO YOU
WANT ME
TO FIND
THAT GIRL
FOR YOU?

SO,
WHAT'LL
YOU
DO...?



...AND
USE YOUR
BRAIN FOR
A HAPPIER,
MORE FUN
TOMORROW?

SO WHY
DON'T
YOU PACK
UP THAT
WISPY
MEMORY
...



"Stop
it."

so...

...TELL
ME HER
NAME.

I'LL
BRING
HER TO
YOU IN
THREE
DAYS.

Stop it!



THEN
DIE
RIGHT
NOW!



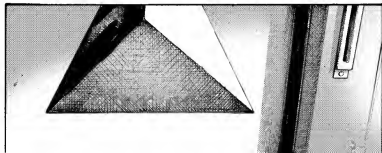
"I'm
going
home."



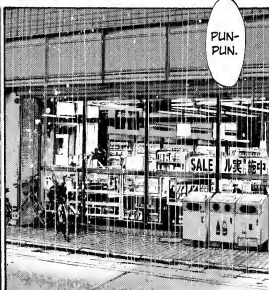


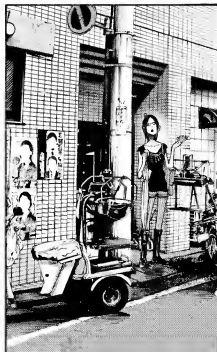
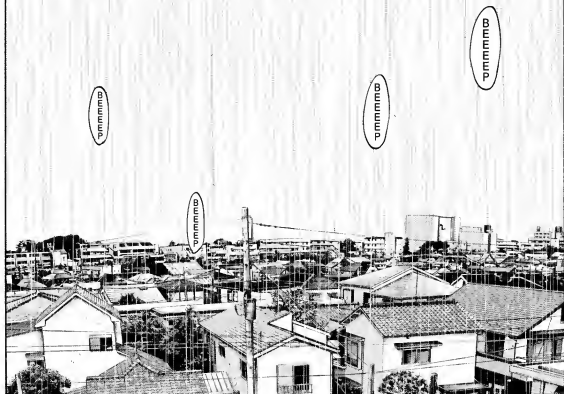
I'M
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO IT.

"I
won't write
anything."



"You're
very
pushy."



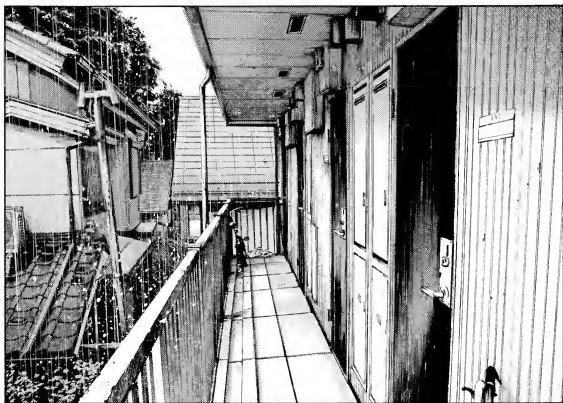
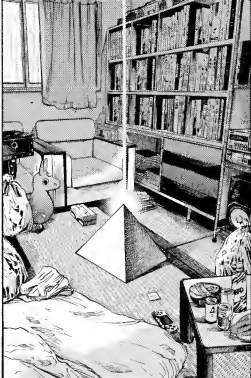






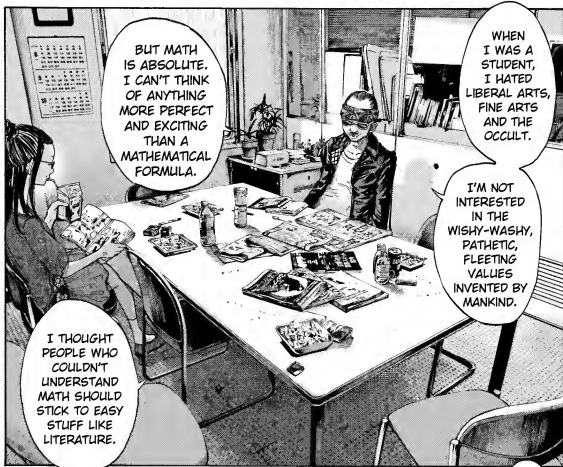
...couldn't
step foot
out of his
apartment
that day.

Punpun...



He was
very, very
annoyed.

He was
annoyed.







PEOPLE
NEED TO
UNDERSTAND
HIS MERCY.
AND IT IS
MY JOB
TO SHOW
THEM.

HIS
ATTITUDE
TOWARDS
HUMANITY
IS TOTALLY
MERCIFUL.

FORTU-
NATELY,
HE'S AN
INNOCENT
AND VERY
KIND.

THAT'S
A GREAT
AMBITION.

A DIVINE
MIRACLE IS
INDISTIN-
GUISHABLE
FROM
SCIENCE IF
IT CAN BE
PROVEN.



BY THE WAY, I
HEARD ONE OF
THE GIRLS SAY
THAT YOUR SPIT
IS POISONOUS
AND MAKES
YOUR FACE
ROT.

YOU'VE
LIVED UP
TO YOUR
REPUTA-
TION AS
A UNIQUE
PERVERT.

WELL,
THANK YOU
FOR THAT
RIDICULOUS
STORY.



SO
PART OF ME
THINKS AN
ORDINARY GUY
LIKE ME CAN
GET IN GOOD
WITH HIM AND
MAKE A LITTLE
MONEY.

HE
ACTUALLY
HAS A SMALL
FORTUNE. HIS
DAD WAS A
RELIGIOUS
LEADER, YOU
KNOW.

WELL
...

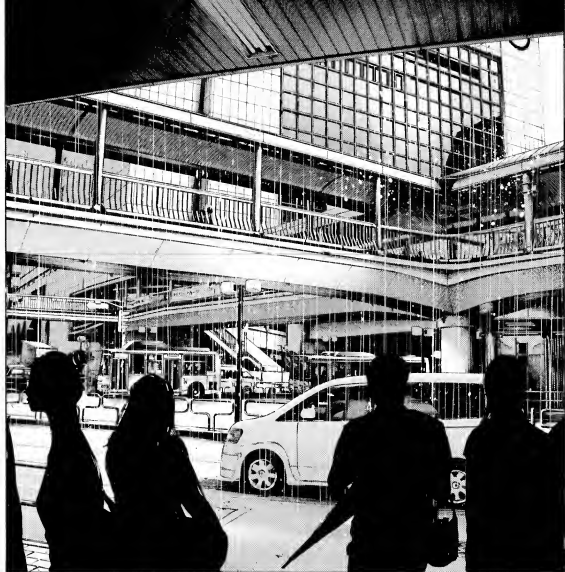


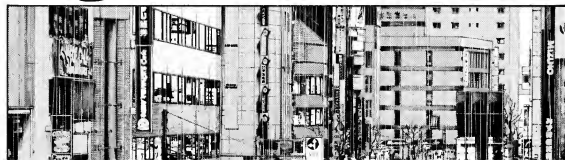
BUT,
MR. WADA,
YOU'RE EVEN
SLEAZIER
THAN YOU
LOOK. I'M
STRANGELY
COMFORTED.

FOR ME,
IT'S SO
SHADY IT'S
A JOKE.

SOUNDS
LIKE A
GOOD PLAN.
WE'RE IN A
RECESSION,
SO RELIGION
IS PROBABLY
POPULAR
NOW.





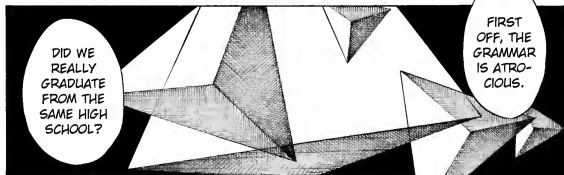






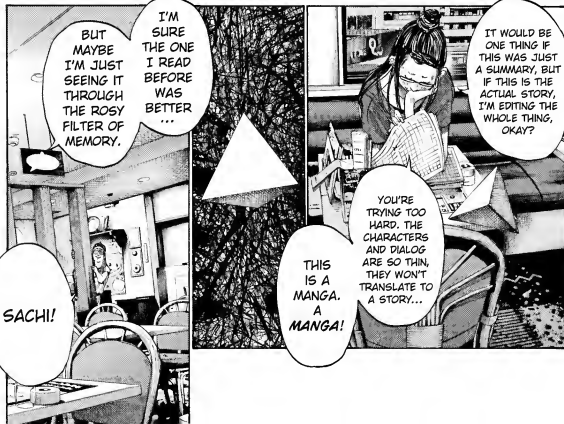
ABSOLUTELY
TERRIBLE!

IT'S
GROTESQUE!



DID WE
REALLY
GRADUATE
FROM THE
SAME HIGH
SCHOOL?

FIRST
OFF, THE
GRAMMAR
IS ATRO-
CIOUS.



BUT
MAYBE
I'M JUST
SEEING IT
THROUGH
THE ROSY
FILTER OF
MEMORY.

I'M
SURE
THE ONE
I READ
BEFORE
WAS BETTER
...

IT WOULD BE
ONE THING IF
THIS WAS JUST
A SUMMARY, BUT
IF THIS IS THE
ACTUAL STORY,
I'M EDITING THE
WHOLE THING,
OKAY?

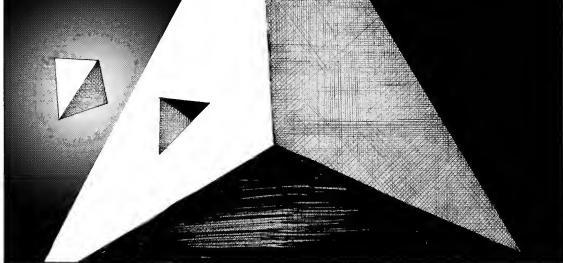
YOU'RE
TRYING TOO
HARD. THE
CHARACTERS
AND DIALOG
ARE SO THIN,
THEY WON'T
TRANSLATE TO
A STORY...

THIS
IS A
MANGA.
A
MANGA!

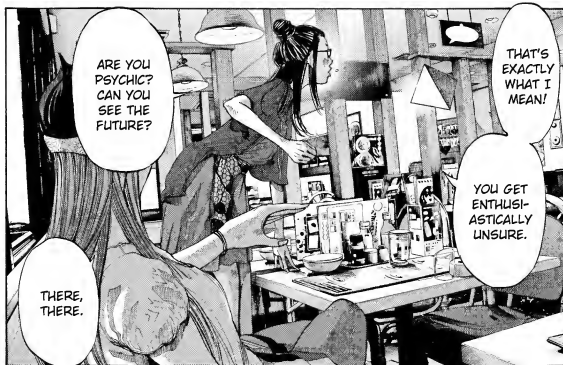
SACHI!

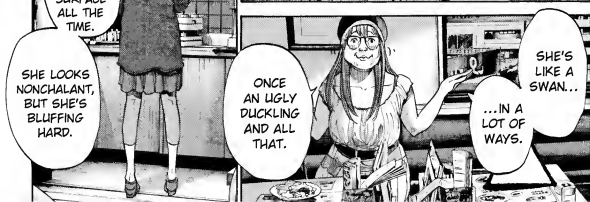






"I think it's best
for both of us if
I don't take this
any further."







IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL, SHE WON TONS OF AWARDS, LIKE THE GOVERNOR'S PRIZE, FOR HER DRAWINGS.

I'VE KNOWN HER SINCE WE WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ...

...AND SHE'S ALWAYS HAD A SKETCH-BOOK WITH HER.



SHE STARTED AT WASEDA UNIVERSITY WITH ME, BUT THEN SHE ENDED UP DROPPING OUT.

SHE HAD PRETENSIONS OF GENIUS. WELL, SHE REALLY WAS VERY TALENTED.

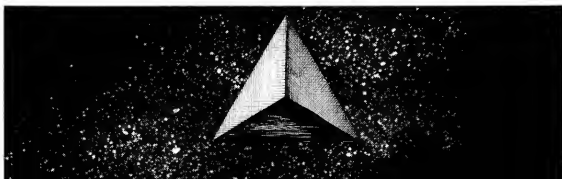
BUT IT DIDN'T LAST. IT JUST SUDDENLY DRIED UP.



I THINK IT'S TIME TO PUT AN END TO HER DELUSIONS.

SHE'S TALKING ABOUT ILLUSTRATING PICTURE BOOKS AS A HOBBY...

...BUT WHAT IS SHE REALLY THINKING?

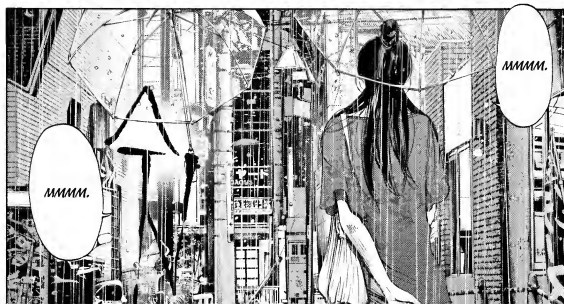




"I'm
going to
go home
early and
do a
rewrite."

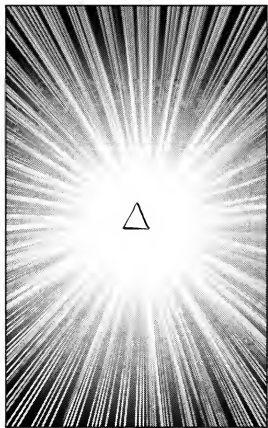


"Does it
have to
be manga,
Nanjo?"





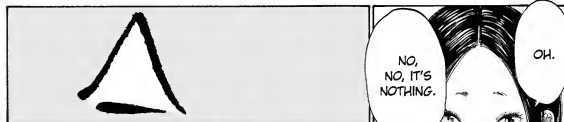










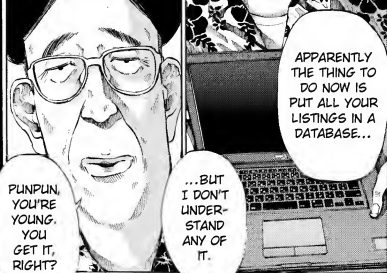


"I'm sorry,
I don't
understand
it either."

PUNPUN,
YOU'RE
YOUNG.
YOU
GET IT,
RIGHT?

...BUT
I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
ANY OF
IT.

APPARENTLY
THE THING TO
DO NOW IS
PUT ALL YOUR
LISTINGS IN A
DATABASE...



JUST
THINK
OF THIS
OLD GUY
AS THE
GOLDEN
GOOSE.

YOU
HAVE TO
APPRECIATE
ANY WORK
COMING
YOUR WAY
THESE
DAYS.

IF
YOU KEEP
GOING ON
LIKE THAT,
I'M GOING
TO SLAP
YOU.

GEEZ,
THERE
YOU GO
AGAIN. "I
CAN'T, I
CAN'T..."



YOU
TWO GET
ALONG
REALLY
WELL.



YOU
SHOULD
DATE.

"I'll
do it."







EVERY
TIME YOU WENT
OUT FOR A WALK,
YOU'D BRING HOME
STRAY CATS. HAVE
YOU FORGOTTEN
HOW THE HOUSE
WAS COVERED IN
POOP?

DO YOU
WANT ME
TO HIT YOU
WITH THE
MALLET
AGAIN?

YOU
ALWAYS DO
THIS. YOU'RE
TOO NICE,
YOU IDIOT!

HOW MANY
TIMES DO I
HAVE TO TELL
YOU? WE
DON'T HAVE
THE MONEY
FOR PART-
TIME HELP!



MISUZU,
DIDN'T YOU
SAY YOU
WEREN'T
FEELING WELL
AND WERE
GOING TO
REST
TODAY?

OH,
WHAT?



IT WOULD
BE BETTER
IF WE TORE
THIS PLACE
DOWN AND
TURNED IT
INTO A
PARKING
LOT.

YOU GOT
THAT, OLD
MAN?

...AND EVEN
WITH ALL OF
THEM, WE
STILL DON'T
HAVE ANY
CUSTOMERS!

FINALLY
YOU STOPPED
BRINGING CATS
HOME, BUT THEN
YOU STARTED
PICKING UP
LUCKY CAT
STATUES FROM
ALL OVER...



GO AND
LIE DOWN
SOME
MORE.

THERE,
THERE.



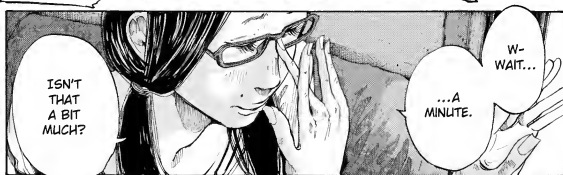


GARBAGE
IS
GARBAGE,
NO MATTER
WHAT YEAR
IT IS.

YOU
DON'T GET
TO ACT SO
SUPERIOR
...

YOU'RE
SO
NAIVE!

...WHILE
YOU HIDE
FROM
REALITY.



ISN'T
THAT
A BIT
MUCH?

...A
MINUTE.

W-
WAIT...



HOW'S HE
GOING TO
LEARN IF
I DON'T
SAY IT?

OHH...

IT'S BEST
TO KEEP
THINGS
SIMPLE FOR
IDIOTS.

...BUT
BEING
NASTY LIKE
THAT JUST
BETRAYS
YOUR
ROOTS.

WELL,
SURE...



CIRCUM-
STANCES?

PUNPUN
MIGHT BE
A FEW
CARDS
SHORT OF
A FULL
DECK...

THERE'S NO
CIRCUM-
STANCE ON
EARTH THAT
MAKES IT
OKAY FOR
A HEALTHY
YOUNG MAN
TO LOAF
AROUND.

...BUT I TAKE
EXCEPTION
TO YOU
CRITICIZING
AN ENTIRE
GENERATION
WITHOUT UN-
DERSTANDING
THE CIRCUM-
STANCES.



OF
COURSE!

HE
CAN GET
LOADS OF
BENEFITS
FROM ALL
THE TAXES
I PAY.

HO.

HO-
WEE.

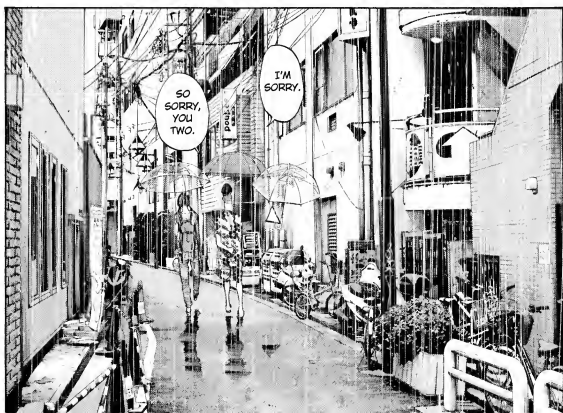
OKAY, SO
WHAT IF
HE FORCES
HIMSELF TO
GO TO WORK
AND THEN
BECOMES A
MEMBER OF
THE WORKING
POOR...

...AND HE
BECOMES
SICK AND
DEPRESSED.
CAN I HOLD
YOU RESPON-
SIBLE FOR
THAT?



CALM
DOWN,
BOTH OF
YOU.

THERE,
THERE,
THERE.





SHE
NEVER
MARRIED.

I
THINK
MAYBE
SHE'S
MENO-
PAUSAL.

MY
DAUGHTER
IS REALLY
ON EDGE
LATELY.



IT'S
BEEN
A...

...LONG
RAINY
SEASON
THIS
YEAR.



I'LL CALL
YOU WHEN
MY DAUGHTER'S NOT
AROUND.

PUNPUN,
STOP BY
AGAIN.



I'LL TRY
NOT TO
SHOW IT
TO ANYONE
ELSE.

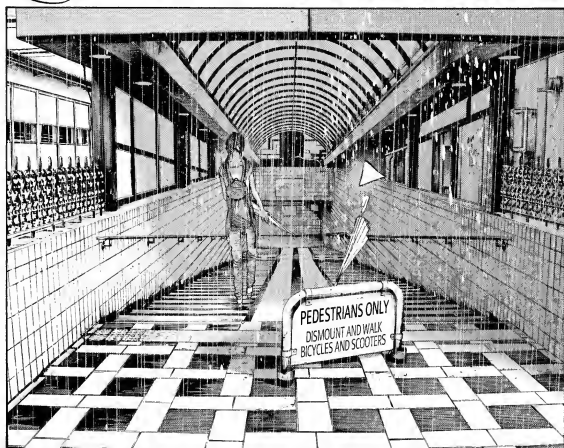
SO,
SACHI,
GIVE THAT
APART-
MENT
SOME
THOUGHT.



YEAH.

YOU'RE
TOO
NICE, MR.
SHISHIDO.





"...that
I didn't
speak
up."

"I'm
sorry..."



NEVER
MIND.



APOLOGIES
ARE
CHEAP.



I DIDN'T
SAY ALL
THAT FOR
YOU.

I DON'T
WANT
YOU TO
MISUNDER-
STAND.



I WAS
PRETTY
DISAP-
POINTED...

...WHEN
YOU DIDN'T
SPEAK UP.

I
COULDN'T
TAKE IT!

I
FELT LIKE
SHE WAS
CRITICIZING
WHO I
USED TO
BE.

AND
JUSTIFYING
IT WITH THE
FACT THAT
YOU AREN'T
GOOD AT
COMMUNICAT-
ING WITH
PEOPLE...

...IS SELF-
INDULGENT.

AT THE END
OF THE DAY,
WE LIVE IN A
COMPETITIVE
SOCIETY.

BUT
YOU
KNOW...

...IT'S LIKE
THE OLD
LADY SAID.

OPTING
OUT
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
AFRAID TO
LOSE...

...IS SO
PATHETIC.

...THEN,
BY ALL
MEANS,
GO
AHEAD.

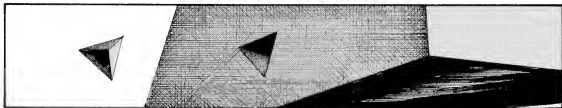
BUT
IF YOU
WANT TO
USE YOUR
TROUBLED
CHILDHOOD
AS AN
EXCUSE...

BUT I
HAVE TO
DO IT!

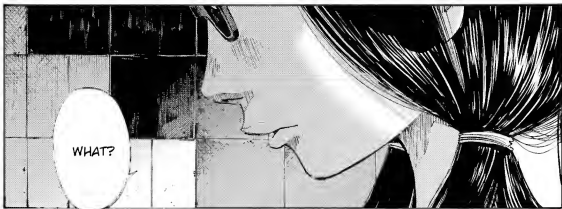
I'M SURE
SOMEONE LIKE
YOU WHO JUST
ROLLS OVER
AND GIVES UP
WILL NEVER
UNDERSTAND.

HOW I
LIVE **NOW**
IS WHAT'S
MOST
IMPORTANT
TO ME...

...SO
TRYING AND
LOSING
IS MUCH
SCARIER TO
ME THAN
DYING.



"Isn't that
wrong?"



"I think it's
cruel and
wrong to
expect the
same kind of
confidence
from me."

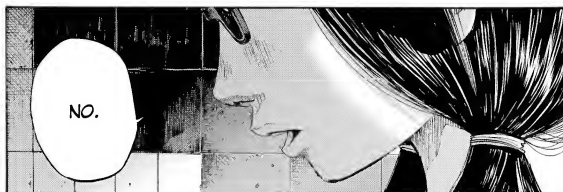
"You're pretty
and smart and
talented. You
started off
blessed, so of
course you're
confident."



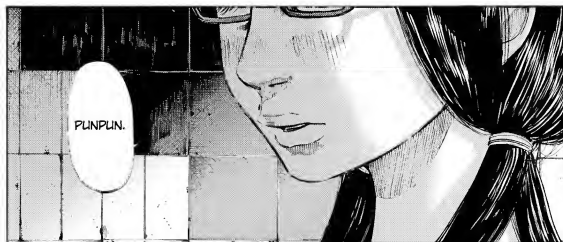
"...and
just saying
whatever
you want and
looking down
on me."

"...ignoring
people's
feelings..."

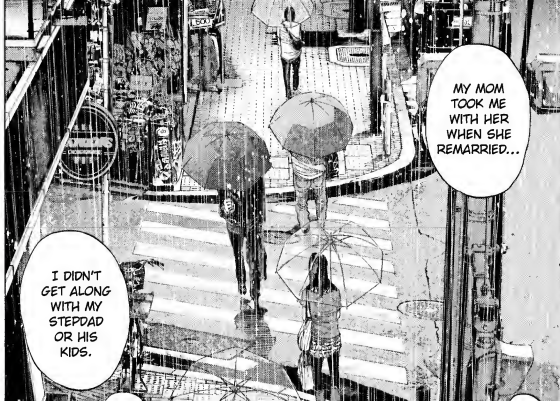
"How
nice for
you..."



"Please
just stop
picking
on me."

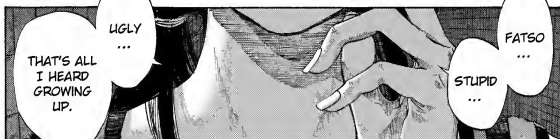






I DIDN'T
GET ALONG
WITH MY
STEPPAD
OR HIS
KIDS.

MY MOM
TOOK ME
WITH HER
WHEN SHE
REMARRIED...



THAT'S ALL
I HEARD
GROWING
UP.

UGLY
...

FATSO
...

STUPID
...



...AND
THEN I
GOT MY
EYES...

... NOSE
...

... CHEEKS
...

EVERYTHING
I DIDN'T LIKE,
I HAD
REDONE.

AS
SOON AS
I GOT INTO
COLLEGE,
I WORKED
MY ASS OFF
IN NIGHT-
CLUBS...

SO I
STUCK MY
FINGER
DOWN MY
THROAT AS
OFTEN AS
I COULD
...

...AND
STUDIED
LIKE I WAS
POSSESSED.

I
KNOW
I NEED
MONEY
AND
LOVE...

...SO OF
COURSE I
WANT TO
BE suc-
cessful.

DREAMS
ARE
MEANT
TO BE
FUL-
FILLED.

FUCK
THE
PAST.

MY
BRAIN
...

...MY
BODY...

I
CHOSE
THEM.

AND NO
ONE TELLS
ME WHAT
TO DO.

...MY
LIFE.

IT'S A
SIMPLISTIC,
STUPID
MOTIVATION,
BUT MY
CONFIDENCE
IS BASED ON
MOVING
FORWARD.





I HAVE
IDEALS.

I'LL
DO WHAT
I HAVE
TO...

...AND
I THINK
THAT'S
THE BEST
ME I CAN
BE.

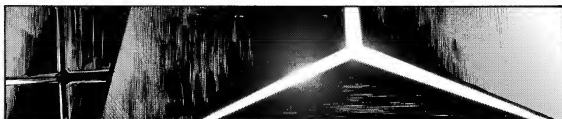


IT'S LIKE
WATCHING
THE ME
THAT I LEFT
BEHIND...

...AND IT
MAKES
ME FEEL
GUILTY.

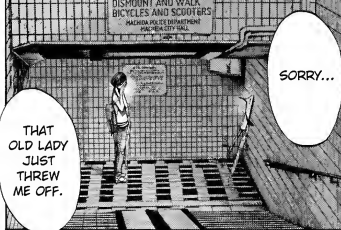
WHEN I
SEE YOU UN-
ABLE TO MAKE
A MOVE BE-
CAUSE YOU'RE
SO SAD AND
ANXIOUS...

IT'S NOT
SO MUCH
THAT IT'S
IRRITAT-
ING.









THAT
OLD LADY
JUST
THREW
ME OFF.

SORRY...



...
DAMN.

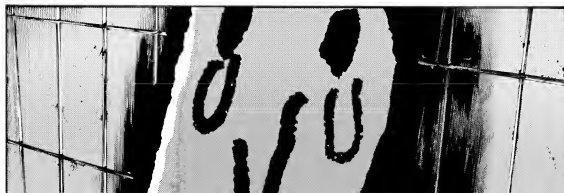
OH...



...CALL
YOU
LATER.

I'LL...

I HATE
CRYING IN
FRONT OF
PEOPLE.



Nanjo!



"What
about the
manga?"



WILL YOU
WRITE THE
STORY?

"Isn't it
cheating
to be
inconsistent
like that?"



...IDEALS
AREN'T
ENOUGH.

"I'll
rewrite it
until you
approve."

"Of
course
I will.

"Will
I...?"



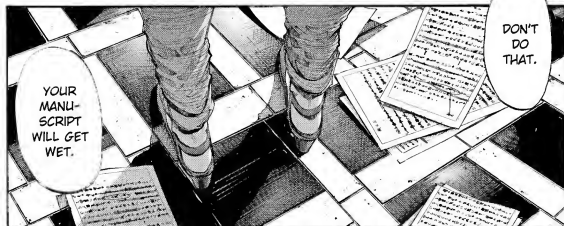
WHY ARE
YOU SO
GUNG HO
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?

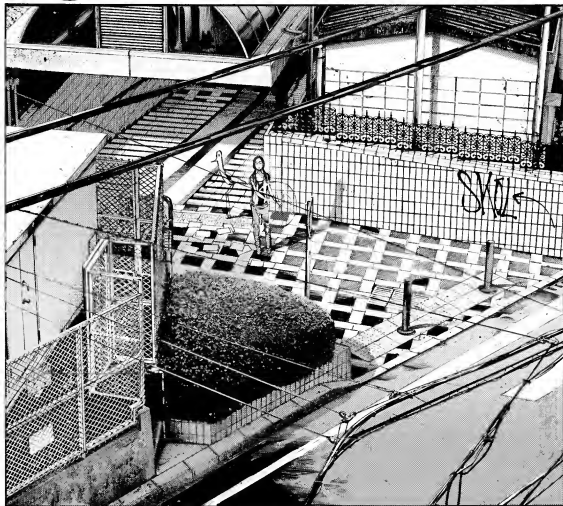
WEIRD.

"I have
experienced
the pleasure
of praise.



"And I
don't
want to
lose to a
jerk like
you."













YOU KNOW,
MY MOM
WAS AN
IMMIGRANT
...

...SO MAYBE
SHE WAS
USING THEM
TO STUDY
JAPANESE.



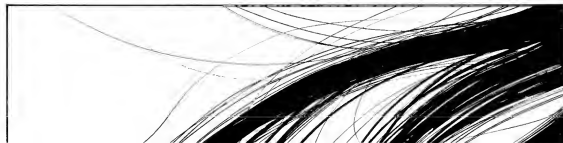
SHE WAS
A CHEAP-
SKATE, BUT
SHE'D BUY
ME LOTS
OF MANGA,
SO I LOVED
HER.

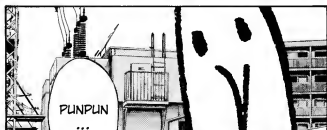
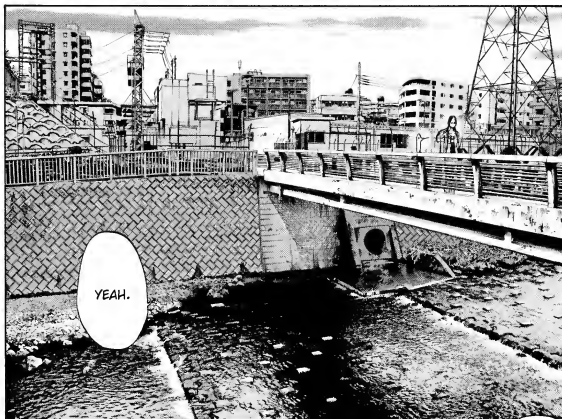


I BET SHE
WENT BACK
HOME TO HER
OWN COUNTRY
AND IS LIVING
A LIFE OF
LEISURE WITH
SOME OTHER
MAN.

HMM?

MY MOM IS
PROBABLY
DOING JUST
FINE.







...but he decided
that for now, he
would just give
himself over to
the approach of
summer.

Punpun couldn't
deny that he was
feeling restless from
being tossed about
by the sudden high-
pressure system...

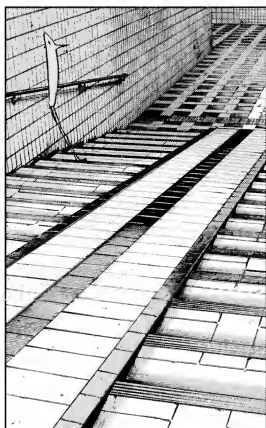


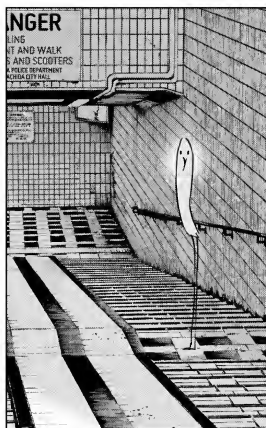
...but he
couldn't
recall
who that
somebody
was.

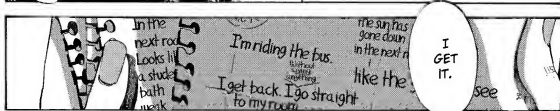
...and it
reminded
him of
someone
else's
hand...

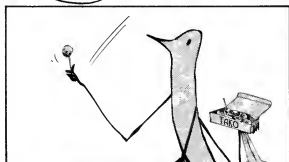
...was much
larger and
knobbier
than he had
expected...

Sachi's
hand...













YO.

HOW'S IT GOING?

I'M
MIMURA,
ONOTTI'S
CLASSMATE.

JUST
CALL ME
"MIMURA'S
MIGHTY
ABS."



SO YOU'RE
MOSTLY
INTERESTED IN
FANTASY AND
UNREQUITED-
CRUSH
MANGA?

I'VE
KNOWN
ONOTTI
SINCE HE
WAS **THIS**
BIG.

WELL...

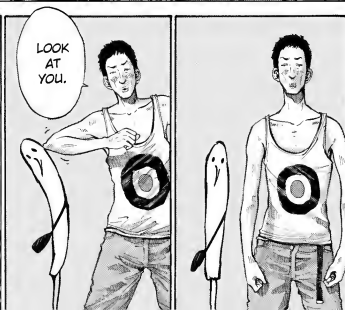
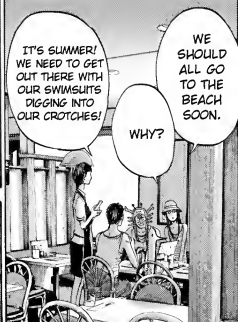


WAIT,
HAVE I
MADE A
MISTAKE?

WHO KNEW
MY HIDDEN
MANGA MANIA
WOULD COME
IN HANDY?

HE'S
NEVER
BEEN SO
INTERESTED
IN ANYTHING
BEFORE.

HE'S
ALWAYS
OFF
GAMING.





I
WANT TO
WRITE...

...IT'S
NOT
QUITE
RIGHT.

YOU
KNOW...



IT'S
NOT FOR
ESCAPING
REALITY...

...IT'S FOR
FIGHTING
REALITY.

...
SOMETHING
THAT DOESN'T
JUST MOVE
YOU OR
BRING YOU
TO TEARS
FOR A FEW
SECONDS.

I WANT
IT TO BE
SOMETHING
THAT AFFECTS
YOUR LIFE
IN SOME
LASTING
WAY.



WHAT AM
I TRYING
TO SAY?

...UHM,
ER.

AND
...

AAARGH!



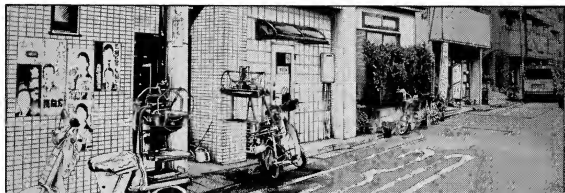
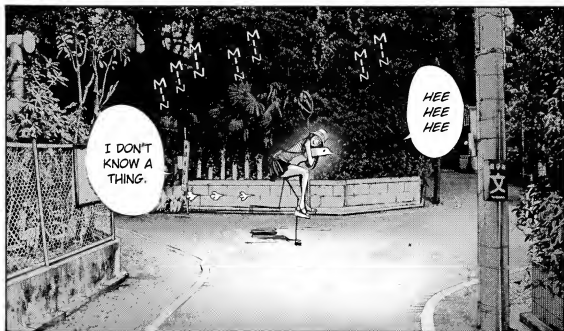
...IT'S
GOOD THAT
YOU'RE
NOT VERY
BRIGHT.

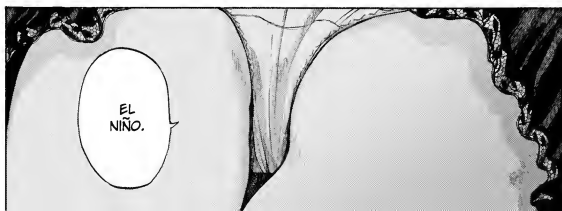
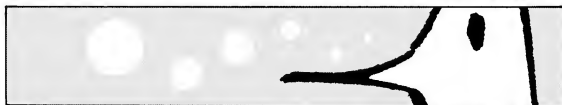
YOU
KNOW,
PUNPUN
...



THINK
YOUR OWN
THOUGHTS!

DON'T
GET TOO
CAUGHT
UP IN THE
WORLD.







WHO
ASKED
YOU?!

YOU JUST
WORRY
ABOUT
YOURSELF.

"You
shouldn't
drink so
much."

"...Sachi."

"I'll try
a little
harder..."



MMMM.

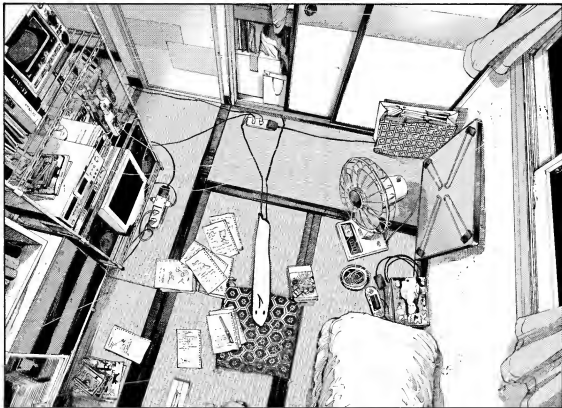


LATER
...

...
PUNPUN.

...Punpun
was a bit let
down.

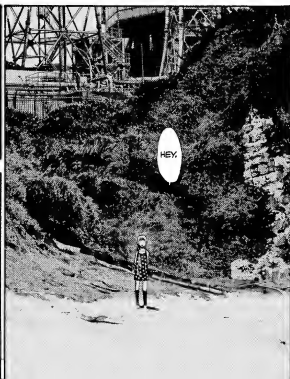
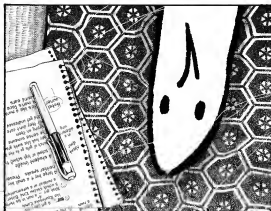
Actually...



...he
thought.

"I can
actually
do
things..."

"Well,
what
do you
know?"



Of course,
one wrong
move and
he was sure
he'd fall back
down that
deep, dark
hole...



Punpun couldn't
get rid of the
regret he felt for
being unable to
change on his
own, without
getting caught
up in someone
else.

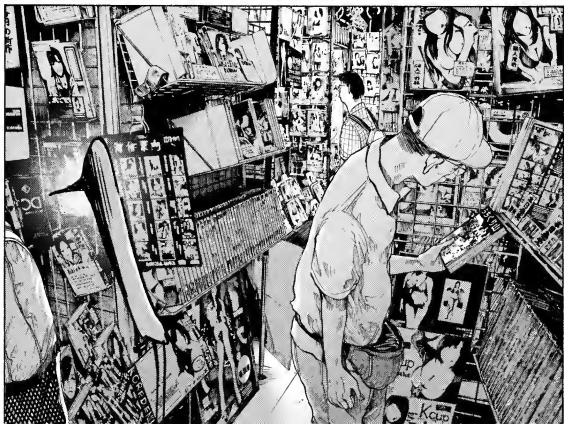


For
now, that
simple
word...

"Later."



...was a magic
invocation that
made Punpun feel
like staying alive until
the next time they
met was doable.







WE DO
NEED OUR
YOUNG
PEOPLE.

THINGS
ARE SO
CONVE-
NIENT
NOW.

IT
REALLY
IS THE
AGE OF
COMPUTERS,
ISN'T IT?



THEN YOU
CAN COME
WORK FOR
US.

...SO WHY
DON'T YOU
GET YOUR
REAL ESTATE
LICENSE?

YOU
KNOW,
PUNPUN,
YOU CATCH
ON REALLY
QUICKLY...



HUH?

CAN'T
HEAR A
THING.



WHAT DO
YOU THINK,
MISUZU?
ISN'T THAT
A GOOD
IDEA?

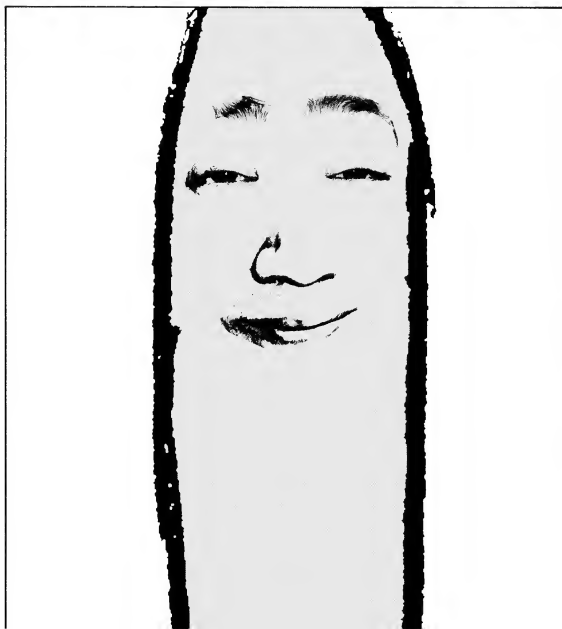


OH YEAH,
WOULD
YOU MIND
THROWING
THAT
POSTER
AWAY?

IT
ENDS
TODAY.









RRRRR



RRRRR

RRRRR

RRRRR



PLEASE
LEAVE
YOUR NAME
AND A
MESSAGE
AFTER THE
TONE.

I'M
OUT
RIGHT
NOW...

...he had
decided
to live all
alone.

IT'S
STARTING
TO
GET
CROWD-
ED HERE.

INCOMING

I'VE
BEEN
WAITING
ABOUT
THIRTY
MINUTES.
WHAT'S
UP?

Punpun
didn't
want
to feel
this way.
That's
why...

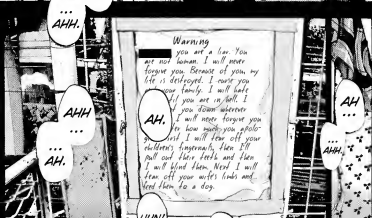
HEY,
IT'S
SACHI.

I'M
GOING
TO HEAD
OVER
THERE
NOW.



...and this
was what
happened.

Let
your guard
down for a
second...



WHOOA.

OW!

OUCH.

WAIT!

I'M DYING, I'M DYING.

AHH ...

I
LOVE
YOU,
PUNPUN.

I DON'T
WANT
ANYTHING
ELSE, AS
LONG AS
YOU'RE
WITH ME.

I
LOVE
YOU.

JUST JERK
OFF ON
YOUR OWN
FOREVER.

YOU'RE
JUST
HOPE-
LESS!

I DON'T
WANT
ANYTHING
ELSE, AS
LONG AS
YOU'RE
WITH ME.

I
LOVE
YOU.

JUST JERK
OFF ON
YOUR OWN
FOREVER.

YOU'RE
JUST
HOPE-
LESS!

**DO
IT!**

DC
IT

DO
IT.

PYAPO,
PYAPO,
BUGYAHII.

YOU
COW-
ARD.

АИИ.

АИИ

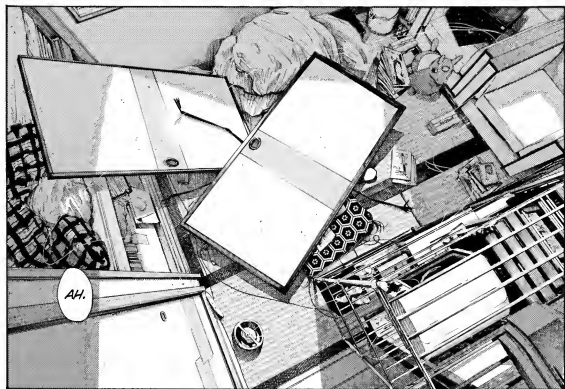
DO
Π...

ALLH

DO
IT.

AHH.

Shut up!!
Aaargh!!
Hafuho!!





AHH,
AHH
...
WOW,
WOW.

AH.

AH.

A blunt
object or
a blade.
Which
would be
better?

During questioning, the
suspect (Onodera, 18)
said, "I just lost my
temper and stabbed
them. I didn't mean
to kill them."

HELLOOO.

AH

...

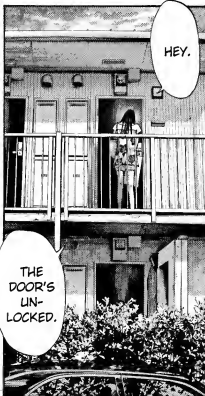
...
AHH.



PUNPUN.

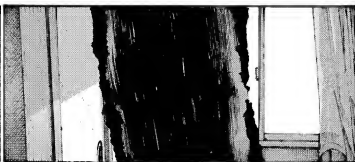
NOK

NOK



HEY.

THE
DOOR'S
UN-
LOCKED.



BROKEN

PUNPUN
ONODERA!

ARE
YOU IN
THERE?



IF
YOU'RE
HOME,
PICK
UP THE
PHONE.

WHAT
THE
HELL?!



WHAT'S
WRONG?



THAT'S
A LIE,
ISN'T
IT?

...

"I'm sorry, I
seem to have
caught a cold,
cough."

"...Yes."





WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

THAT'S
ALL
YOU
CAN
SAY?

SHOW
YOUR
FACE!



OKAY.

SHOOT.

"Um, yeah,
hee hee, sorry.
I didn't mean
to get in the
way. Hee hee
hee. You've got
such a lovely
boyfriend who
c-comes and
picks you up
from work, ba
ha ha ha."

"W-well, heh
heh, um, the
fireworks,
yeah, like,
the fireworks,
I think you
should go
with your
boyfriend..."

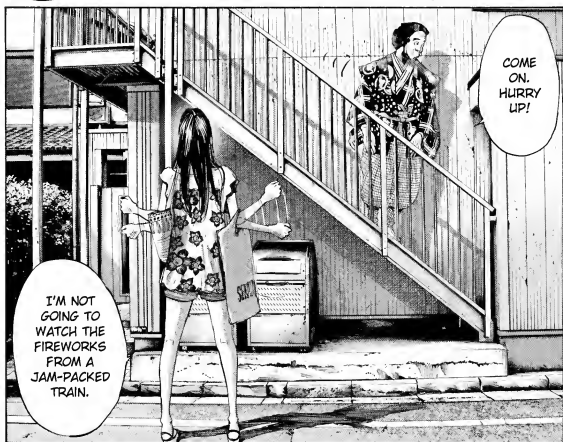


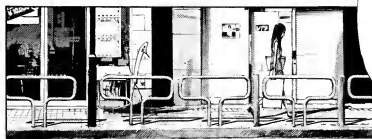
WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
LET ME
KNOW?

...DID
YOU COME
BY THE
SCHOOL?

HUH
...







I'LL
JUST
GO BY
MYSELF.

"I tend to
get the
wrong
idea about
things,
so if you
continue to
be nice to
me..."

"But
I..."



"Sachi, you
probably
don't realize
it, but you're
an amazing
person who's
nice to
everyone."



"...I'll
fall in
love with
you."





"I'm
perfectly
happy with
our current
relationship.



"But
please
forget
I said
anything.

"I feel
much
better
now that
I've told
you.



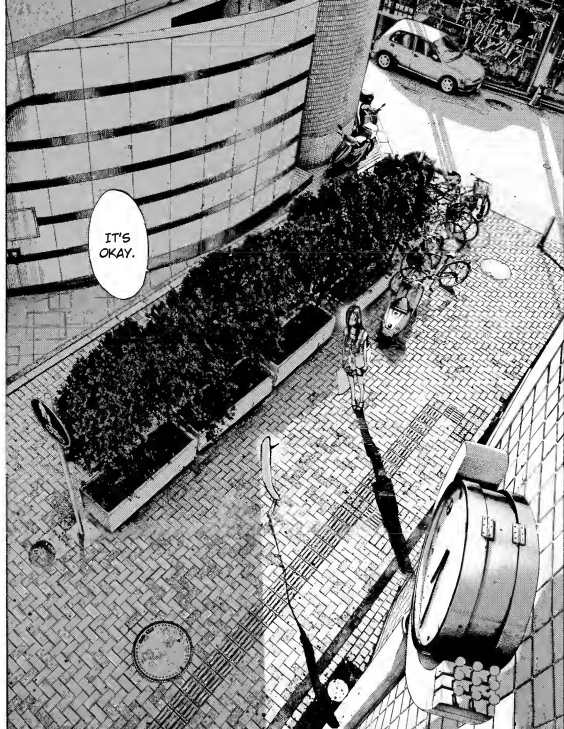
"It's
going
to start
soon."

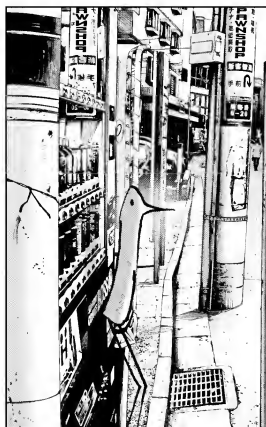
"Okay,
let's
hurry."



YOU
KNOW.









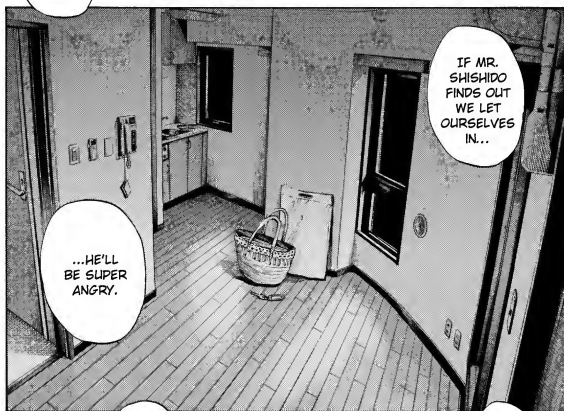


BUT I
GUESS...

WELL,
THAT WAS
A BIT OF
A MESS.

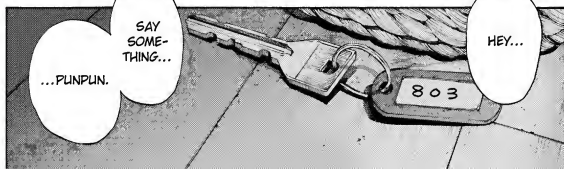
...IT'S
BETTER
THAT WE
CAME
HERE.

GROUND
ZERO IS
PROBABLY
REALLY
CROWDED.



IF MR.
SHISHIDO
FINDS OUT
WE LET
OURSELVES
IN...

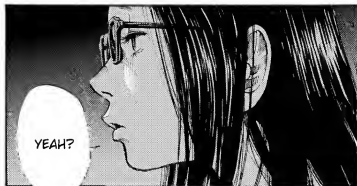
...HE'LL
BE SUPER
ANGRY.



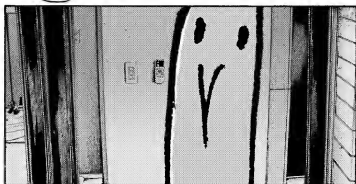
SAY
SOME-
THING...

...PUNPUN.

HEY...



"Lately,
I've been
thinking
about
who you
remind
me of."





"...and I doubt I'll ever forgive her, but..."

"I still hate her, even though she's dead ...



"Your personality and temperament are like hers.

"You're like my mom.

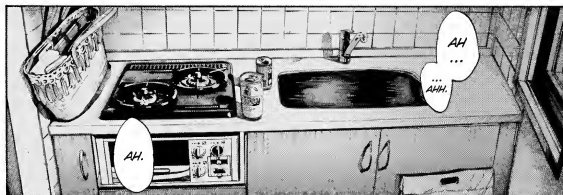
"...but there it is."

"I don't know how to explain it..."





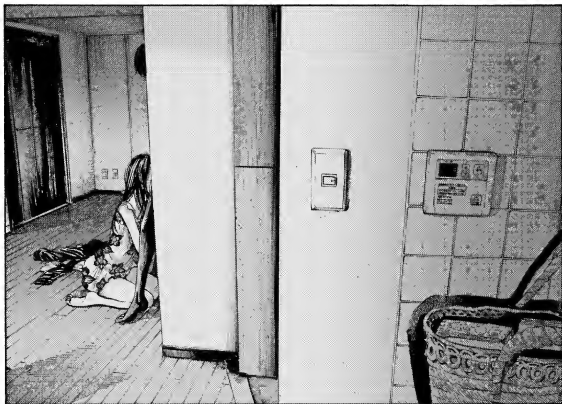




Goodbye,
Kanie.



Goodbye,
Midori.

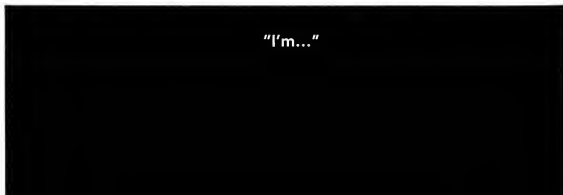
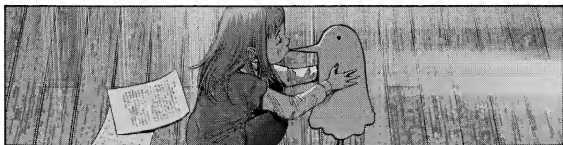


Goodbye,
Aiko.

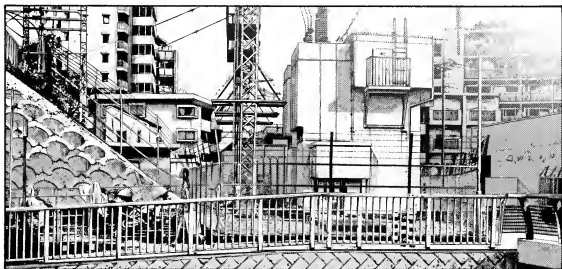


"I'm
all right
now."









"You can
call me
'Hit it
and quit
it' from
now on."

"Sachi."

YEAH?





"If having sex was all it took to get rid of the chaos..."

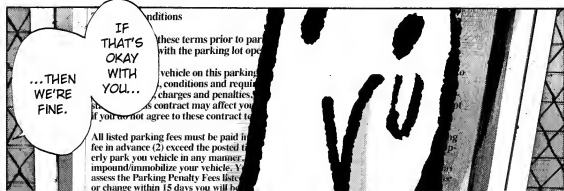
"In all
my 18
years..."



"...then
what
was the
point of
my life
up until
now?"



"...I've never
despaired
of life as
much as I
have today."







お家、見せしめ。

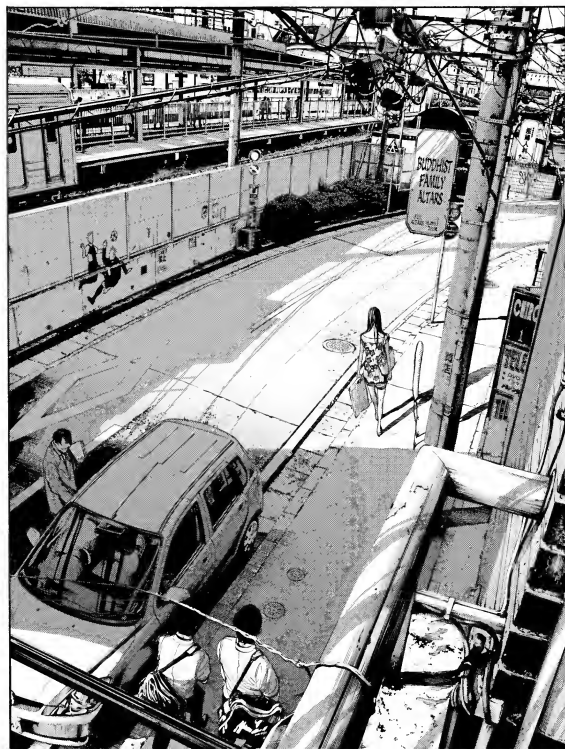
ハイストーンビル
HIGHSTONE BUILDING

FOR RENT
USED FURNITURE

KOKOKOKI
SPORTS GADGET

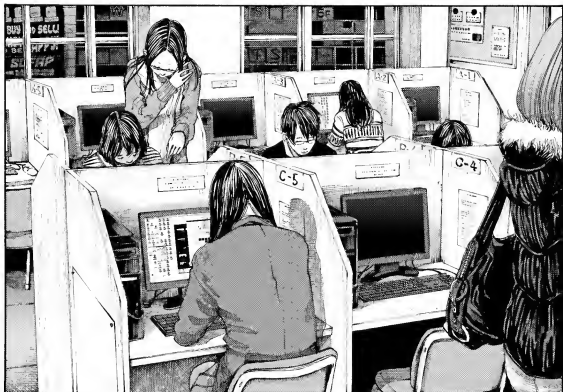
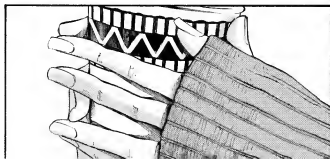
HIGH STONE

2500円





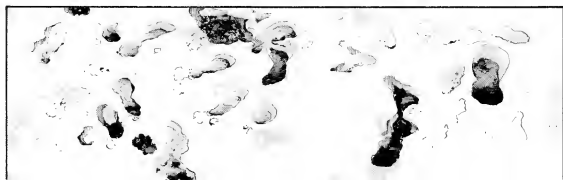
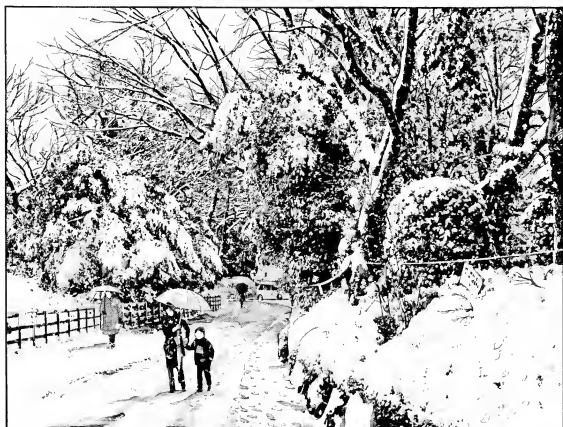


[illegible]

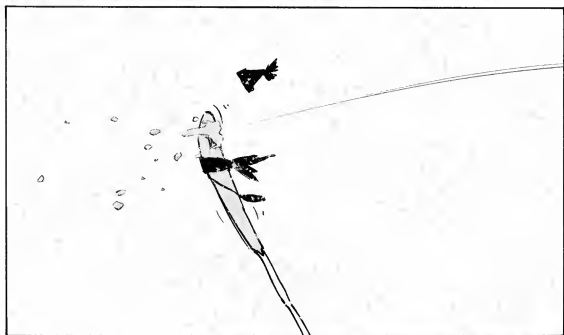










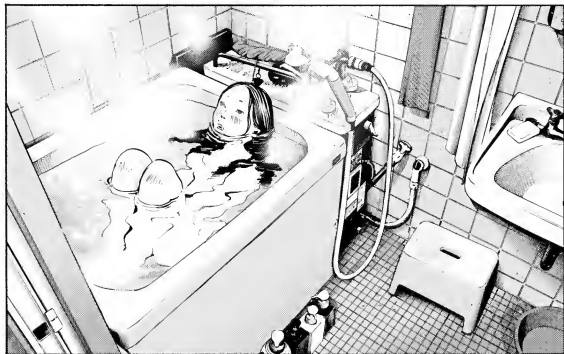
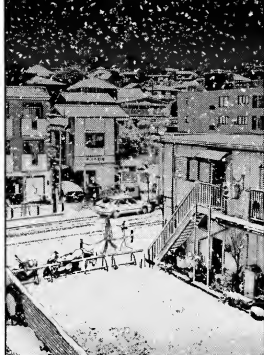


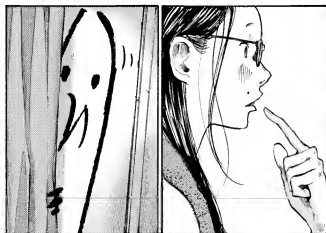
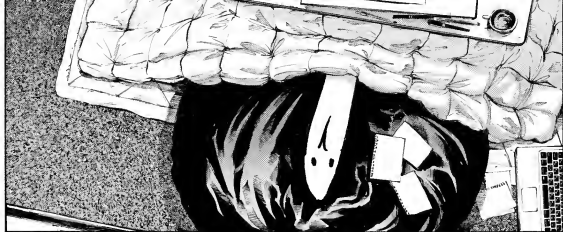


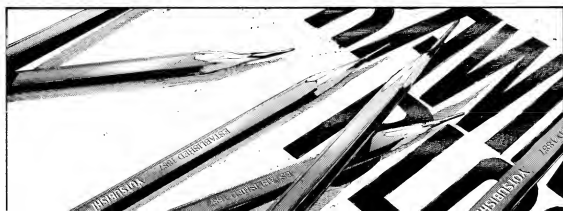
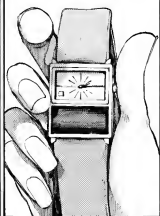




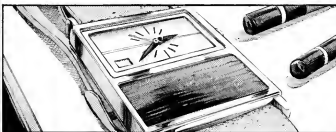
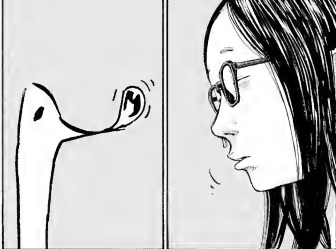






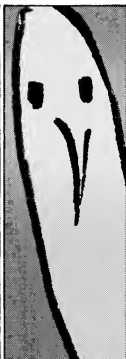






Yo,
Punpun!

Yo!
yo!



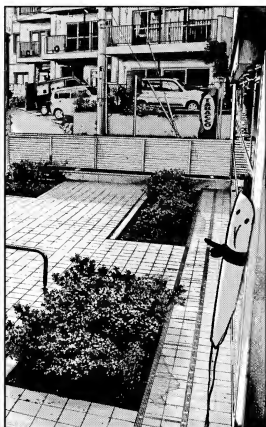
**You're
just a
piece
of shit.**

**What
right do
you have
to feel
happy?**



**This delusion
isn't going to
last forever.**





**One
year
later.**



IT'S
SACHI...

IT'S
BEEN
A WHILE.

OH,
HELLO.



CAN
YOU TALK
NOW?

I'M
SORRY,
I KNOW
YOU'RE
SUPER BUSY
AT THE END
OF THE
YEAR.



THAT'S
RIGHT, I
HAVEN'T
GIVEN
UP...

I THOUGHT
I'D START
BY COLD-
CALLING
SOME
PUBLISHERS.

IT'S
BEEN A
LONG TIME,
BUT I'M
TRYING
MY HAND
AT MANGA
AGAIN.



...as if to
make up for
the laziness
of the last 11
months.

...December in
the city was full
of hurried
people busting
through the
crowds...

Once
again...



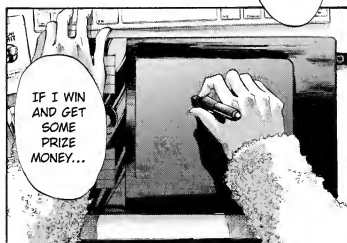
...
Punpun
had
changed.

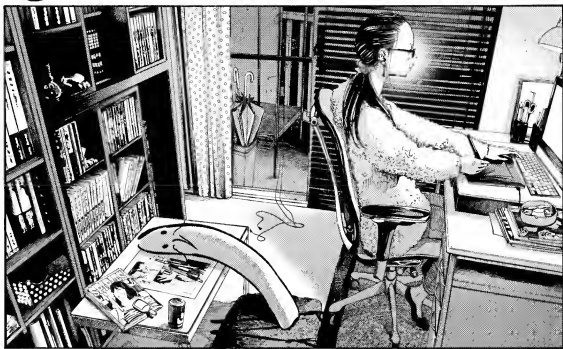
In the 18
months
since he'd
started
living on
his own...



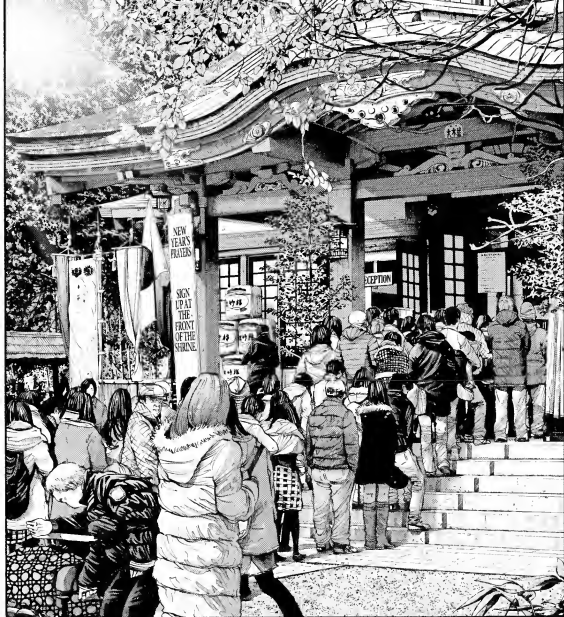
...Punpun
had
mastered
the art of
keeping
step and
blending
with the
crowd.

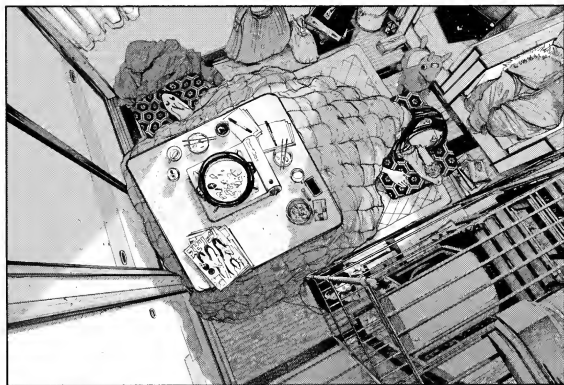
Unlike
years
past...

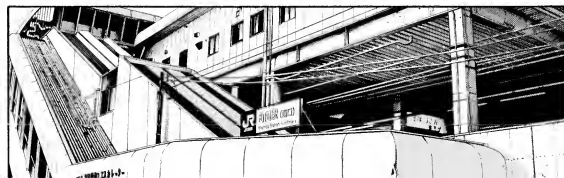




"Never
mind."









I
WONDER
HOW WE
ARE FOR
TIME...?

MAYBE
WE SHOULD
HAVE LEFT
EARLIER?

OKAY,
OKAY...

...WILL YOU
CHECK ONE
LAST TIME
JUST TO BE
SURE THAT
I HAVE ALL
THE PAGES?



NO
WAY...

JUST
A LITTLE
EXCITED.

HMM...

AM I
NERVOUS?



HEY.

OH,
OH
NO!

MY
STOMACH
HURTS.



...ACCEPT ALL
UNWANTED
ITEMS!

WE...

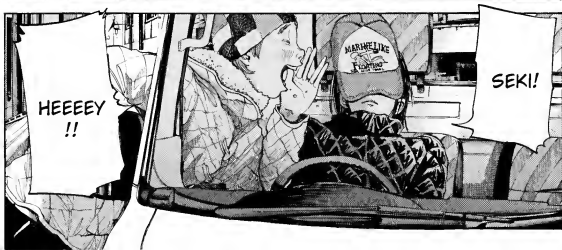


SEKI.

IF YOU HAVE
COMPUTERS,
BIKES, OR CD
PLAYERS YOU
NO LONGER
WANT...

...CALL US
FOR AN
ESTIMATE!

HEY.



HEEEY
!!

SEKI!





SHIMIZU

...

...YOU
NEVER
REALLY
CHANGE.

YOU
WENT
TO
COLLEGE.
YOU SHOULD
HAVE MADE
FRIENDS
THERE.

YOU NEED
TO STOP
HANGING
WITH ME ALL
THE TIME AND
GET A LIFE.



DON'T
TAKE
EVERYTHING
SO SERI-
OUSLY.



WHAT?

I
DIDN'T
MEAN
IT.





I
GOT ALL
WORKED
UP FOR
NOTHING.

PHEW!

THE
EDITOR...

...SAID
HE'S
PUSHING
OUR
MEETING
BACK AN
HOUR.



BE-
CAUSE...

...THIS IS AN
EMERGENCY
THAT SHAKES
THE VERY
FOUNDATION
OF OUR
FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION!

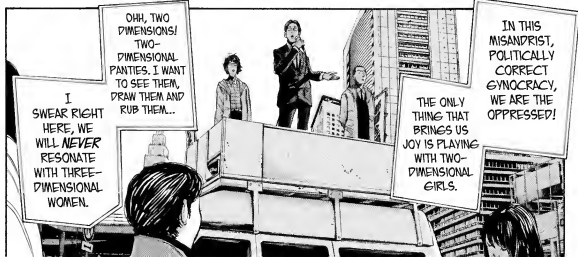
LISTEN,
EVERY-
ONE.

WE'RE
ALL
SUFFER-
ING!



...IT
TOOK US
18 MONTHS
TO FINISH
THIS.

WELL,
ALL
TOLD...

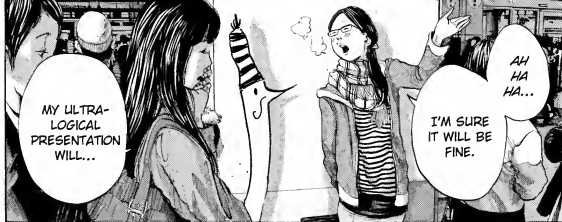


OH, TWO
DIMENSIONS!
TWO-
DIMENSIONAL
PANTIES. I WANT
TO SEE THEM,
DRAW THEM AND
RUB THEM...

I
SWEAR RIGHT
HERE, WE
WILL NEVER
RESONATE
WITH THREE-
DIMENSIONAL
WOMEN.

IN THIS
MISANDRIST,
POLITICALLY
CORRECT
GYNOCRACY,
WE ARE THE
OPPRESSED!

THE ONLY
THING THAT
BRINGS US
JOY IS PLAYING
WITH TWO-
DIMENSIONAL
GIRLS.



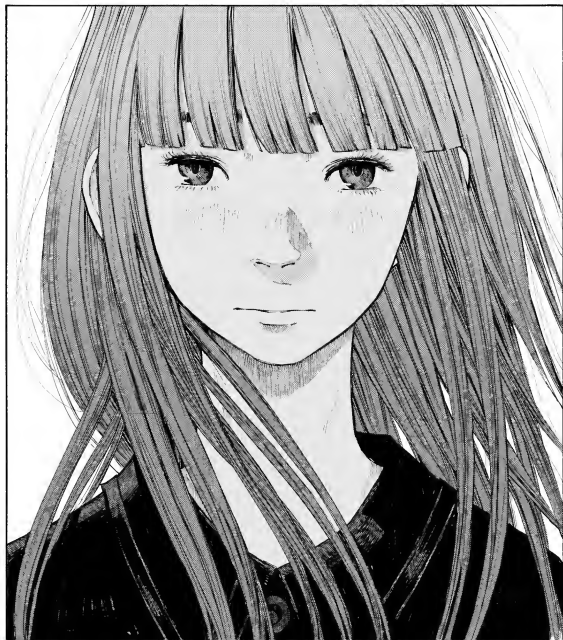


GOOD
VIBRATIONS.

LIMUNE



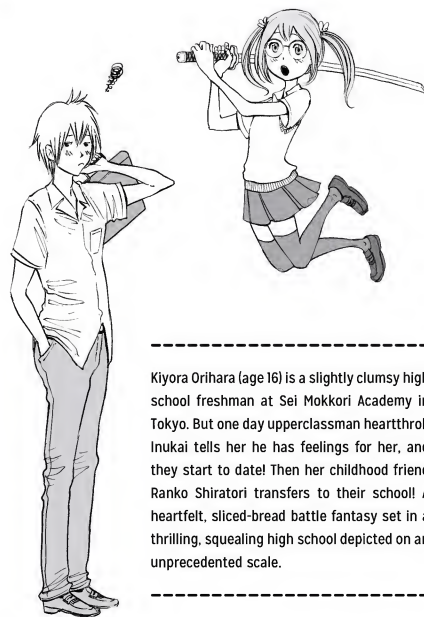






GOODNIGHT PUNPUN INIO ASANO
Part Eight

BACKGROUND ASSISTANTS: Yuki Toribuchi
Satsuki Sato
CG ASSISTANT: Hisashi Saito
COOPERATION: Kumatsuto
Yu Uehara



Kiyora Orihara (age 16) is a slightly clumsy high school freshman at Sei Mokkori Academy in Tokyo. But one day upperclassman heartthrob Inukai tells her he has feelings for her, and they start to date! Then her childhood friend Ranko Shiratori transfers to their school! A heartfelt, sliced-bread battle fantasy set in a thrilling, squealing high school depicted on an unprecedented scale.

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!!



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fun
too!!





INIO ASANO, a bona fide earthling, was born in Ibaraki, Japan, in 1980. In 2001, his short story "Uchu kara Konnichiwa" (Hello from Outer Space) won the first Sunday GX Rookie Prize. Later, GX published his series *Subarashi Sekai*, available in English from VIZ Media as *What a Wonderful World!* His other works include *Hikari no Machi* (City of Light), *Nijigahara Holograph* and *Umibe no Onna no Ko* (A Girl on the Shore), as well as *solanin*, also available from VIZ Media.

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GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Volume 4

VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by INIO ASANO

OYASUMI PUNPUN Vol. 7, 8

by Inio ASANO

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